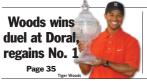
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EUCOM's command sergeant major vows better training, gear

Top four teams get Madness going early

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TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

50¢



U.S. servicemembers in military vehicles man a checkpoint Saturday on Airport Road, the route leading to Baghdad International Airport, American troops on Friday fired on the car ushing Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after a month in captivity. Sgrena was wounded and Nicola Calipari, the Italian intelligence officer who helbed necetiathe her release, was killed.

Horror on Airport Road

Shooting of journalist, agent took place on feared path out of Baghdad

> BY ALISSA J. RUBIN Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — The route runs through a broad and flat landscape, bare but for a few date palms rising tall and dignified and the occasional small bush. Except for the litter of plastic bottles and bags, the scene is almost pastoral, peaceful.

It hardly seems the place where people could hide and detonate bombs or jump out and ambush vehicles. But this is Baghdad's Airport Road, six miles paved with dread.

It was on this road that U.S. soldiers opened fire Friday night on the car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, wounding her and killing Nicola Calipari, the Italian intelligence agent who had negotiated her release from Sunni insurgents.

SEE ROAD ON PAGE 8







licola Calipari

■ U.S. 'regrets' shooting Page 5

■ Funeral held for agent Page 13

STARSWSTRIPES. COMING



Scene on Sunday

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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Judge's family murders: The parents of white supremacist Matthew Hale, looking forward to visiting their imprisoned son this week, said they don't believe that any member of Hale's group is capable of murdering a federal judge's husband and mother.

In separate telephone interviews, Evelyn Hutcheson and Russell Hale said Sunday they are worried authorities will cancel their visits to their son, who is awaiting sentencing next month for soliciting an FBI informant to kill Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow in Chicago.

Russell Hale said two FBI agents ques tioned him Friday, asking if he had any idea who might have killed Judge Lefkow's husband — attorney Michael Lefkow, 64 — and mother, Donna Humphrey, 89, who had lived in Denver. Matthew Hale has denied any involvement in the slavings

World

Iran nuclear program: Iran confirmed on Monday that its Natanz uranium enrichment plant in central Iran is underground to protect its nuclear equipment from any possible airstrikes but it insisted that was not a

sign the program aims to produce weapons. U.S. officials have said building nuclear facilities underground is inconsistent with Iran's claims that its nuclear intentions are neaceful.

Rabin assassin's request: The Israeli Supreme Court on Monday rejected a request by Yitzhak Rabin's assassin to have conjugal visits with the woman he says he married by proxy. Yigal Amir, who is serving a life term for the Nov. 4, 1995, killing of Rabin, had sought permission to have conjugal visits with Larisa Trimbobler.

The Supreme Court said that Amir has not abandoned his violent aims and is a role model for extremists. It also said it would be difficult to supervise such visits.

Congo violence: Militiamen and rene-gade soldiers have raped and beaten tens of thousands of women and young girls in eastern Congo, and nearly all the crimes have gone unpunished by the country's broken judicial system, an international human rights group said Monday.

Hundreds of new rapes are reported every week, but only 10 soldiers and militants have been convicted of rape in relatively lawless eastern Congo since the end of the country's devastating war in 2002, New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a

Pope's recovery: Pope John Paul II is to be released from the hospital in time for Holy Week services that begin with Palm Sunday on March 20 and culminate with Easter, the Vatican said Monday.

The pope has suffered no complications since a Feb. 24 surgery to insert a tube in his windpipe and ease his second breathing crisis in a month, said papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. He said doctors cautioned John Paul not to use his voice too much to ensure a complete recovery.

Ikan war crimes charges: The former chief of staff of Yugoslavia's army flew to the Netherlands on Monday to surrender to



Pakistan rape verdict protest: Pakistani women stage a rally Monday to support a rape victim in Multan, Pakistan. More than 3,000 women rallied in this eastern Pakistani city, demanding justice and protection for Mukhtar Mai, a 33-year-old teacher, whose alleged rapists were released by a court last week. Mai - who attended the rally - was allegedly gang raped in June 2002 by men from Mastoi clan, considered to be socially higher than her Gujar tribe in Meerwala. A court sentenced six men to death for Mai's rape. But an appeals court in Multan last Thursday overturned the conviction of five of the men, citing lack of evidence, and reduced the other man's sentence to life in prison. The demonstration ended peacefully.

a U.N. war crimes tribunal there

Gen. Momcilo Perisic, the head of the Yugoslav army during the Balkan wars of the 1990s, was indicted last week by The Hague tribunal for his alleged role in atrocities committed by troops in Croatia and Bosnia.

West Bank violence: Palestinian militants wounded two Israeli border policemen in a shooting attack on a military post near a West Bank shrine Monday, the latest attempt to disrupt a delicate cease-fire.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, reacting to the attack, said Jews would continue to live and pray in Hebron, endorsing the settler presence in the tense city.

N. Korea nuke talks: The top U.S. negotiator for the North Korea nuclear dispute will visit Washington and Tokyo this week to seek ways to lure Pyongyang back to the negotiating table, the U.S Embassy said Monday.

Christopher Hill will meet Kenichiro Sasae, director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia-Oceania bureau, on Thursday, the embassy said.

Bobby Fischer saga: Chess legend Bobby Fischer has been granted an Icelandic pass port and the right to reside there but has been refused permission to leave the detention center in Japan where he is being held pending deportation to the United States, his lawyers and supporters said Monday.

Fischer, who turns 62 on Wednesday, has been held by Japanese immigration authorities since being arrested in Tokyo in July while trying to board a plane to the Philip pines, allegedly using an invalid U.S. passport

Washington has sought Fischer, a chess champion, on charges of violating international sanctions against the former Yugoslavia by playing chess there in 1992. Taiwan-ese president shooting: Investigators on Monday said the "most likely suspect" the election-eve shooting that grazed the Taiwanese president's stomach was an unemployed man in his 50s who was depressed about the economy and committed suicide shortly after the attack.

Monday's announcement did little to satisfy some of the skeptics who believe the March 19, 2004, shooting was a conspiracy rigged by the president to gain sympathy and boost his chances of re-election.

Canada missile defense: Prime Minister Paul Martin had initially indicated that Canada wanted to participate in the U.S. missile defense program, but later reversed his position the U.S. ambassador said during an interview aired Sunday.

Ambassador Paul Cellucci said Martin had sent strong signals that Canada would take part in the program designed to protect North America from incoming missiles.

Martin announced in late February that

Canada would not participate in the contentious missile defense program, which a majority of Canadians oppose, polls say.

Business

Justice Department v. Microsoft: The Jus-tice Department, which challenged Microsoft Corp. in courtrooms for nearly a decade over antitrust violations, will pay more than \$2 million each year to buy business software from Corel Corp., a leading Microsoft rival

The new purchase agreement, announced Monday makes the latest version of Corel's WordPerfect Office software available to more than 50,000 lawyers and other Justice employees

es and photos from The Associated Press

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PHOTOS BY BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

U.S. European Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle, center, talks with Staff Sgt. Phillip Hoover of the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, during a patrol of the Serbian town of Pasjan, Kosovo, on Saturday. Bartelle also visited troops at Camp Bondstel and Camp Montelit over the weekend.

EUCOM's command sergeant major pledges better training, equipment

BY BEN MURRAY Stars and Stripes

The highest-ranking enlisted soldier in Europe said this week that he is intent on ensuring troops under his care receive the best training and equipment the military can provide over the next several years. Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle,

the U.S. European Command's top liaison to enlisted troops in the theater, said military families' welfare and concerns also will be foremost on his mind during his three-year tenure.

A 26-year soldier with tours in Hawaii, South Korea, Germany and Belgium, Bartelle has worked his way up through "every noncommissioned officer leadership position from team leader to command sergeant," according to his EUCOM biography.

His previous duty was as the Army's command sergeant major at NATO, he said.

On his first official appearance as the command sergeant major since taking the office Feb. 8, Bartelle visited troops last weekend at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, where he said he was still adjusting to being treated more like brass than the enlisted soldier of his youth. "It still has an impact on me," he said.

"The sphere of influence I have and how people react when they find out who I am and what I do."

Despite his lofty position, Bartelle made an effort to personally thank as many troops as he could for serving on the Koso-

Asked whether he had any specific issues he wanted to address in his new role, the soft-spoken Bartelle said it was too soon for him to identify the type of systematic problems he may eventually deal with at the EUCOM level.

His first priority is to come up to speed on his role in the strategic planning of the military in the European command, he said.

Snow delays Bartelle's departure

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo — The new command sergeant major for the U.S. European Command received a longer-than-expected tour of the main American facility in Kosovo over the weekend.

Problems with the C-12 Huron passenger plane that brought him and nearly a foot of fresh snow combined to turn his overnight trip into a stay of almost three full days at Camp Bondsteel.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle was on hand at the base to attend a transfer of authority ceremony and meet troops in his first trip abroad as EU-COM's senior enlisted adviser.

Bartelle said he luckily had a pretty empty schedule for Monday, when he was supposed to receive some orientation around his new office in Stuttgarf, Germany, but was eager to get back for a Tuesday teleconference about military quality of life issues.

Bartelle's plane broke down on the flight line in Pristina, Kosovo, on Sunday, when he was originally supposed to depart, and replacement parts were delayed from reaching the airfield by the deepening snows.

On Monday afternoon, he was still stranded at the base. The delay left Bartelle wading through a long list of e-mails and taking care of administrative duties, he said, but didn't affect his work too much. "Patience is a virtue," he said.

- Ren Murray

"The amount of information I'm receiving is difficult to absorb," he said.

About the one issue sure to generate waves of concern among military members during his tenure — the transformation and consolidation of the U.S. military in Europe — Bartelle said the best thing he can do until he knows more about the



Pfc. James Pope and a fellow soldier from the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor Regiment, stationed at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, practice riot drills in the swirling snowstorm that grounded planes, buried roads and delayed base activities Sunday, but it wasn't enough to let the soldiers off the hook to stay warm and dry indoors.

shape of the future force will be to disseminate information as fast and accurately as he can.

"The goal will be to ensure that everyone has a working knowledge of what's happening." he said.

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Navy testing camouflage uniforms in the States

The Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Maine — Sailors in camouflage?

In a dramatic departure from tradition, about 60 sailors stationed at the Naval Air Station in Brunswick are part of a worldwide test of new unisex camouflage working uniforms for enlisted personnel.

"We are the only branch of the military that has more than one working uniform," said Master Chief Aaron Shipley.

"The Navy is trying to make life easier for all of our sailors ... the whole intent here is to reduce our sea bag."

The Marine Corps and Army have long worn forest green and desert tan camouflage uniforms.

Base spokesman John W. James says the distinctive blue, gray and black patterns of the new Navy uniform will prevent confusion.

More than 1,700 sailors across the globe received the uniforms this year, including sailors at Rota, Spain, and Naples, Italy.

Each sailor also received a user's guide that explains how to care for their cloth-

The sailors must keep a log that asks how often they launder the clothing. At the end of the test period, Brunswick's sailors will be asked to critique the camouflage shirt and trousers, new belts, headwear, polyester knit T-shirts and mock turtlenecks, boots, a waterproof parka and a fleece jacket.

If the Navy's Uniform Board determines that the uniforms are durable and likable, Navy personnel could begin wearing the camouflage soon.

The new uniforms will not replace traditional dress white or blue uniforms or its flight suits, but could reduce the number of garments in a sailor's wardrobe.

The early reviews of the new uniforms have been mostly positive, with some complaints related mostly to accessories such

as boots and belts.
"I'm a big fan of the uniform," said
Navy veteran Vince Hoium, who likes to
wear the fleece jacket under the parka. "It
is by far the warmest uniform I have ever

tried on

Hoium, a senior chief, has been in the Navy for 22 years, said he appreciates more that sailors have been allowed to provide input.

Iraq war protesters charged

DUBLIN, Ireland — Five Iraq war protesters charged with criminally damaging a U.S. Navy transport aircraft pleaded not guilty Monday in Dublin Circuit Criminal Court

The five — Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, Damien Moran and Kieran O'Reilly — were arrested in February 2003 inside or near a hangar housing the aircraft, which had been attacked a few days earlier by a lone ax-wielding protester.

The protesters' two alleged incursions

into Shannon Airport highlighted grass roots Irish opposition to the US-14 dinvasion of Iraq and embarrassed the Irish government, which deployed a battalion of troops around the airport's perimeter to troops around the airport's perimeter to prevent further incursions. Ireland, an officially neutral nation, has permitted the Clare, southwest Ireland, for the past three years as a refueling point for its operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

From The Associated Press

AF lifts Boeing ban on satellite launch bids

BY MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Air Force on Friday lifted a 20-month ban prohibiting Boeing Co. from bidding on satellite launch contracts, saying the company had corrected problems that led to accusations that it stole information

from a competitor in 1998.

The Chicago-based aerospace giant was suspended in 2003 and stripped of some \$1 billion in launch contracts after it was found in possession of thousands of sensitive documents belonging to rival lockheed Martin.

Acting Air Force Secretary
Peter Teets said Boeing will reinburse the military \$1.9 million for
the cost of investigating the allegations. Boeing also will pay for a
special compliance officer, reporting to the Air Force, who will monitor the company's business ethics for the next three years.

"This has been the longest suspension of a major defense contractor, and it demonstrates how seriously we take the issue of procurement integrity," Teets said. "Over the past 20 months, Boeing has taken serious corrective actions."

In July 2003, the Air Force banned Boeing from satellite launches after concluding that Boeing committed "serious and substantial violations of federal law" by stealing extensive information from Lockheed during competition for a \$1.9 billion satelite launching contract in 1988. The steal contract in 1988, the steal of the price of launches, worth about \$1.000 to the contract billion in revenue, that were to use Boeing rockets, and gave them to Lockheed.

Both companies participate in the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program, the military's main system for getting satellites into space.

Under the interim agreement announced Friday, Boeing will be allowed to compete next year when the Air Force holds a competition for a new round of launches.

The Air Force initially awarded Boeing and Lockheed Martin contracts worth nearly \$2\$ billion over the course of 28 missions from 2002 through 2008. Boeing received the majority of the contracts, many of which were transferred to Lockheed Martin after Boeing was suspended.

Three Boeing employees were charged in connection with the alleged thefts.

"We have worked hard over the past 20 months to restore the trust

Latest F-15 jet passes test flights

By JIM SUHR

ST. LOUIS — Boeing Co.'s newest fighter jet has made a successful maiden flight, passing all tests ahead of a ceremonial rollout later this month, the aerospace company's defense unit said.

Chicago-based Boeing has a \$3.6 billion contract with South Korea to provide 40 of the F-15K Strike Eagles from next year through August 2008. The new planes will join the fleet of F-16 jets that now form the backbone of the South Korean air force.

A derivative of the F-15E used by the U.S. Air Force, the F-15K can carry more than 23,000 pounds of cargo, reach Mach 2.5 — two and a half times the speed of sound — and use the latest military technologies, Boeing said.

On Thursday, Boeing's chief F-15 test pilot and

chief weapons systems officer put the jet through its paces, soaring to an altitude of about 50,000 feet, surpassing Mach 2 and accomplishing engine shutdowns and restarts during the hourlong flight.

Coming four days ahead of schedule, "it was a good mission — as good as you can do on your first time out," said Bill Barksdale, a spokesman for Boeing Air Force Systems. "The test pilot was really happy with it."

A condition of the deal with South Korea was that the jet components would be made in that country but the final assembly of the jets would take place in the United States.

Shares of Boeing rose \$2.12, or 3.8 percent, to close at \$57.42 Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange, climbing to the highest level since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks sent the plane manufacturer's commercial airline customers into a deep slump.

millions of dollars

and confidence of our customer, and we are grateful that we have reached this point," said Boeing spokesman Doug Kennett.

A Lockheed spokesman declined to comment, citing ongoing litigation.

In addition to the administrative sanctions Boeing has faced, the company is facing separate civil and criminal investigations as a result of acquiring the Locked papers.

The Air Force has estimated the total cost of shifting launches to Lockheed, building a new launch pad on the West Coast and covering other financial fallout from Boeing's document-gathering has amounted to hundreds of

Boeing also faces ongoing questions about its relationship with a former top Air Force procurement

official, who has admitted giving the company special treatment.

Darleen Druyun, who later took a job at Boeing, is now serving nine months in prison for violating federal conflict-of-interest laws.

The Government Accountability Office said in separate reports last month that the Air Force improperly favored Boeing in at least two contracts worth a total of \$6.5 billion.

Darmstadt duty's over



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripe

Staff Sgt. Ryan Bever, left, and soldiers of the 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1s Battalion of the 129th Military Police, stand in formation during a farewell ceremony Monday in Darmstadt, Germany. The MPs have been in charge of all community law enforcement operations in Darmstadt since December 2003, according to 233rd Base Support Battalion Public Artlatis Office in Darmstadt. Bever was credited with saving another soldier's life last year. Prior to deploying to Germany, the MPs served as field artillery soldiers in the Missouri Army National Guard.

Project aims to save whales from Navy sonar

BY CATHERINE CLABBY

Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer

BEAUFORT, N.C. — After more than 30 whales died during a mass beaching in North Carolina in January, sonar from U.S. Navy ships surfaced as a possible cause. Now scientists are trying to steer Navy vessels clear of such tragedies.

Two Duke University researchers are devising a system intended to predict where and when whales, dolphins and other animals swim off U.S. shores. Navy planners could use it to put distance between some harmful operations and vulnerable animals.

"There's a lot of promise to this approach," said Mardi Hastings, a program officer for marine mammal science and technology with the Office of Naval Research. "It's the only way we can think of that would provide us with predictive capabilities."

Navy vessels, like all ships, pose big dangers to sea mammals, whether they be abundant bottlenose dolphins or endangered right whales. Collisions occur. Explosives and polluting discharges make trouble. And evidence is mounting that sonar, which Navy vessels use to detect underwater threats and navigate, may cause some whales to beach themselves, often with fatal results.

Aboard research vessels and in laboratories, scientists have spent decades collecting data on many of the same sea creatures the Navy sometimes harms. They are gaining insights to the migration routes and rituals of many species. They know how water temperature, nutrition levels, the routes of the shifting Gulf Stream, even the shape of the sea floor can influence where animals are likely to go.

Using computer power and mathematics formulas, Duke biologist Andy Read and seascape ecologist Pat Halpin want to combine the best of what's known about the animals to predict where they'll be and when. Neither expects perfect forecasts, but they believe they can help the Navy better understand what's occupying waters stretching from Maine to Mexico.

The federal Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Indeed this research project, along with another project focused on waters off the West Coast, to help the Navy comply with laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Hastings said That law, with some exceptions, prohibits people from harassing, hunting or killing marine mammals.

The East Cost project will cost \$896,000, spen over at least three years. When the project was announced in 2002, it declared its "first priority" as finding a way to deal with risks to whales possed by sonar. Sound waves from sonar are suspected of causing problems for whales, perhaps damaging their hearing somehow or causing them to rise to the surface to outlickly and get the bends.

U.S.-led forces bust fishing boat carrying \$30M in hashish

The Associated Pres

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S.-led naval forces raided a fishing boat in the northern Arabian Sea carrying 2.6 tons of hashish valued at an estimated \$30 million, the U.S. military said Monday.

Sunday's seizure of the drugs and vessel, a traditional dhow named al-Zahidi, followed coordination between British and U.S. forces, the Bahrain-based U.S. 5th Fleet said in a press release. ##Drugs are often very directly related to the means of getting money for terrorist organizations, so that is why we also track drug-smuggling dhows.

**P

German Rear Adm. Henning Hoops

British frigate HMS Grafton started tracking the dhow Saturday and contacted American guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill which sent an SH-60B helicopter to intercept the vessel.

The exact location of the seizure was unclear, as was the nationality of the boat and crew. It was not known how many people

were detained from the dhow, on which was found 128 sealed packages containing a total of 2.6 million tons of hashish.

"Drugs are often very directly

related to the means of getting money for terrorist organizations, so that is why we also track drug-smuggling dhows," said German Rear Adm. Henning Hoops, commander of the multinational task force.

USS Bunker Hill deployed Dec. 6 from its San Diego home port and is part of Commander, Task Force 150 that oversees security operations around the Horn of Africa, the North Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman.

White House rejects claim that U.S. forces targeted journalist

WASHINGTON — The White House on Monday said it was "absurd" for a former hostage in Iraq to charge that U.S. military forces may have deliberately targeted her car as

was being rushed

to freedom. White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the car carrying Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena was travel.



ing on one of

the most dangerous roads in Iraq, to the Baghdad airport, when it was fired upon. An Italian intelligence officer in the car was shot and killed

Responding to Sgrena's statement that the car may have been deliberately targeted, McClellan said. "It's absurd to make any such suggestion, that our men and women in uniform would deliberately target innocent civil-

"That's just absurd," McClellan repeated

He said the airport road "has been a place where suicide can bombers have launched attacks. It's been a place where regime elements have fired upon coalition forces. It is a dangerous road and it is a combat zone that our coalition forces are in.

Oftentimes, they have to make split-second decisions to protect their own security

"And we regret this incident," McClellan said. "We are going to fully investigate what exactly oc-curred."

President Bush called Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on Friday to apologize and to promise a full investigation. Sgrena has said it was possible

her car was targeted deliberately because the United States opposes Italy's policy of negotiating



An injured man is carried into a hospital on Monday after insurgents launched a series of attacks in and around the city of Bagouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. Those attacks, as well as a car bomb in Balad, left 31 people dead and dozens more wounded.

■ Funeral held for Italian agent, Page 13

U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Sunday, at least 1,507 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,142 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four mili tary civilians. The AP count is 12 higher than

the Defense Department's tally. last updated at 10 a.m. EST Fri-

The British military has report-ed 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgar ia, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Nether-lands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakh stan and Latvia one death each.

dent Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,369 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,033 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers

The latest deaths reported by the military

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Juan M. Solorio, 32, Dallas; killed Friday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Mosul; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Lewis, Wash

British rule out sabotage in Jan. 30 plane crash LONDON - The likelihood that hostile fire downed a British trans-

port plane on Jan. 30 in Iraq increased Monday when military officials ruled out sabotage and engine failure in the crash that killed 10 people.

An interim report by the Royal Air Force board of inquiry excluded a range of possible explanations, including lightning, collision with another aircraft or cargo exploding in the crash of the Hercules C-130 transport north of Baghdad about a half-hour after polls closed in Iraq's landmark elections.

But the panel did not rule out the possibility that the Hercules, which was on an administrative flight between Baghdad and a U.S. air base at Balad, may have been shot down by guerrillas with a surfaceto-air missile

"There is a great deal of detailed evidence that has yet to be analyzed and a number of lines of inquiry that need further investigation, said a statement from the Ministry of Defense, adding that the inquiry "is not yet in a position to establish the cause of the crash.

On Feb. 9, Air Force Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, the deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, said he believed the British aircraft was downed by hostile action rather than by a mechanical problem. He had also suggested the possibility of sabotage.

From The Associated Presi

31 Iragis killed in series of attacks by insurgents

BY TODD PITMAN The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Guerrillas launched a series of attacks in Iraq on Monday that left 31 people dead and dozens wounded as the country took its first major step toward forming a government whose most crucial task will be dealing with the insurgency.

Bulgaria said one of its soldiers killed in Iraq on Friday was likely hit by friendly fire from coalition troops. The shooting came on the same day as U.S. troops fired on a car carrying Italian journalist Giulilana Sgrena, wounding her and killing an Italian intelligence officer who negotiated her release from insurgents

Al-Qaida in Iraq purportedly claimed responsibiliin an Internet statement for much of the bloodshed - violence in and around Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where 15 people died. Another car bomb killed 12 people in Balad, southeast of

The Baqouba assaults included a car bomb, three roadside bombs and small arms attacks three checkpoints, one of them just south of Bagouba in Muradiyah, said police Col. Mudhafar al-Jubbori. U.S. Mai. Ed House said a suicide car bombing outside a police station there killed nine people and wounded 17. The dead included the bomber, two police, three soldiers and three civilians.

In another attack near the city, a group of about 20 insurgents in five vehicles attacked an army checkpoint with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, killing five Iraqi soldiers. The troops fought back, killing one of the attackers. Nine people were wounded. House said.

Militants also fired a mortar near the blue-domed governor's office, but no one was hurt, said a spokesman for the U.S. 42nd Infantry Division, Maj. Richard Goldenberg.

Another car bomb exploded outside the home of Iraqi army Lt. Col. Mohammed Abdul Mutaled in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, killing 12 people and injuring 21 others, said the city's police chief, Avad Ahmed. Hospital officials said most of the casualties were bystanders. Iraqi security forces are frequently targeted by insurgents.

In Baghdad, gunmen killed two police and wounded a third in a drive-by shooting in the eastern slum of Sadr City, said Dr. Abdul Jabar Solan, director of a hospital where the casualties were brought.

Two civilians were killed when a roadside bomb targeting a joint U.S.-Iraqi military convoy exploded in the west Baghdad neighborhood of Amiriyah. The blast missed the convoy, damaging two passing cars and wounding four people, including two girls, said 1st Lt. Ali Hussein Hamdani. Another roadside bomb exploded in a southeastern Baghdad suburb, wounding several people on a bus.

Amid the wave of violence, Dutch troops ended their mission in the southern city of Samawa and turned command of the area to the British, along with responsibility for 550 Japanese soldiers. The Dutch government last year decided to pull out its final 350 troops, despite requests from Britain and the United States. Meanwhile, saboteurs blasted a pipeline near Sa-

marra, 60 miles northwest of the capital, that carries oil to a Baghdad refinery, said police Maj. Mohsin Mahmoud.

A Polish soldier was wounded in the hand Monday when a bomb blew up next to his convoy north of Hillah in central Iraqi, said Lt. Col. Zbigniew Staszkow, spokesman for the Polish military.

The death Friday of Bulgarian Pvt. Gardi Gardev vas likely caused by friendly fire from troops of the U.S.-led coalition, according to Bulgarian Defense Minister Nikolai Syinarov in Sofia. Svinarov said Gardev was in a Bulgarian patrol

that was approached by a civilian Iraqi car. The vehicle did not stop after the patrol gave a signal, and the servicemen fired warning shots in the air from the north. Shortly after that, the patrol came under "massive fire from the west," where a U.S. Army communications site was located about 150 vards away, Svinarov said.

A U.S. military spokesman, Tech. Sgt. Patrick Murphy, said the commanding general in the region had appointed a commission to investigate.

Security missions take GIs out into the night

Darkness protects Forward Operating Base Gabe squads as they patrol Baqouba, Iraq

BY CHARLIE COON Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq
he patrol rolled out of base late
Sunday night and onto the dark
streets of Baqouba. Its mission:
to check security fences that
were installed at a pair of bridges.

"To keep people from getting in under the bridge, planting [explosives] and blowing it up," said Staff Sgt. Douglas Lesh, one of the vehicle commanders.

Another goal was to confront and possibly detain anyone violating the curfew, which is in effect from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. "If we see people we would normally de-

tain them and ask some questions," said Staff Sgt. Hugh Griffin of Bainbridge, Ga. The soldiers of 1st Battalion, 30th Infan-

try Regiment, based at Forward Operating Base Gabe on the eastern edge of Baqouba, conduct patrols such as this almost every night in this city of 300,000 about 40 miles northeast of Baghdad.

They are part of Task Force Liberty, a conglomerate of 20,000 soldiers stationed throughout north-central Iraq whose goal is to help build a functioning democracy in the wake of the U.S.-led toppling of Saddam Hussein in the spring of 2003.

Sunday night's patrol included three armored Humvees and two Bradley fighting vehicles. It traveled with lights off to make it more difficult for insurgents to attack the patrol.

The five vehicles and 20-plus soldiers

had far too much firepower for an average band of insurgents to face using conventional means, but insurgents in Iraq have been using unconventional, hit-and-run tactics such as roadside bombs

On this night, the moon was obscured by clouds, which made the streets darker and made it a little more difficult for the soldiers to see.

"I hate this road," Griffin said as he steered his Humvee onto a bumpy, pitch black stretch near the Diyala River, which runs through Baqouba.

At one point the patrol using its heat-sensing equipment detected a "hot spot" in a wooded area. It could have been a person, animal or weapons cache, the soldiers said.

The hot spot could also have been a video camera, they said, used by insurgents-for-hire to videotape their attack with improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, in order to collect a bounty.

But after dismounting and wading into the woods to investigate, the soldiers found the smoldering embers of a fire that someone might have been using to keep warm in the chilly night air.

It turned out that one of the two bridges that were inspected had slipshod fencing that could be infiltrated by someone wanting to plant a bomb. Lesh said it would be reported up the chain of command to be fixed.

To finish their patrol, the soldiers drove down what they call Canal Street back to FOB Gabe, re-entering the base at 12:35 a.m., one hour after they had left it.

The battalion sends out patrols most nights, said 1st Lt. Patrick Heim of Phenix City, Ala, a platon leader. Sometimes their objective is to search for a per-



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripe

Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Gabe check a bridge in Baqouba on Sunday night for security risks.

son or inspect a certain site in Baqouba, a city with a mixture of Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish residents.

On other nights, though, the patrols are simply looking for suspicious activity. They try to avoid sitting in one place for

"During any extended period, the

enemy could locate us and drop mortars," Heim said. "But overall, we've had very little direct contact."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.estripes.osd.mil

General: Some Taliban fighters switching sides

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Thirty midlevel Taliban have turned themselves in to coalition forces this year, a top U.S. commander said Monday, predicting more will follow when the Afghan government amounces a reconciliation program for followers of the hardline militia.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the No. 2 d. commander in Afghanistan, d.d. to diednify the insurgents and said the coalition had no specific information on the whereabouts of top-level Taliban, including the supreme leader of the ousted Islamist regime, Mullah Omar.

The 30 Taliban had "essentially turned themselves in" at coalition bases in the eastern province of Khost and the southern province of Kandahar during the past two months and had been handed over to Afghan authorities for reintegration into society.

None had been detained and

one was now serving as a policeman, Olson said.

Olson was addressing a news conference at the end of his one-year term as chief of operations for the 17,000 U.S. forces hunting Taliban and al-Qaida militants in Afghanistan.

Purported Taliban officials have rebuffed the U.S.-backed amnesty program — which is not open to the top echelon of the militia — and vowed to go on the offensive as the weather improves after a particularly harsh winter.

Olson said coalition forces had targeted cells of mid- and loulevel Tailbian insurgents. Militant attacks against them had declined over the past year, from 10-15 per week in the spring 2004, to around five attacks weekly now — although he said insurgents could step up activity in the coming spring.

According to news reports over the weekend, three Taliban leaders who were arrested in Pakistan in recent months were handed over to U.S. officials last week

Olsen confirmed that three Taliban leaders were "handed over in Pakistan." He said the three were not under coalition custody and that "we don't have the status of their current location." He did not name them.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani, however, said, "We haven't handed over any new prisoners to the United States recently."

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Photos from the Front



ABOVE Spc. Carlos Antoine Fields, of the Air Delense Artillery Battery, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, observes incoming vehicles during a recent guard shift on Dragoon Forward Operating Base, Iraq.

BELOW Soldiers of the 1st Battalien, 26th Infantry, climb using the buddy assist method off the front of a Bradley flighting vehicle to set up a perimeter around a roadside bomb in Iraq.

Duane Brown/U.S. Army

TOP RIGHT Spc. Carlos Antoine Fields, Air Defense Artillery Battery, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, observes incoming vehicles during a recent guard shift on Dragoon Forward Operating Base, Iraq.

RIGHT Camp Liberty's first "tourist attraction" is an SA-2 surface-to-air missile replica, which soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Company A. 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, recovered north of the nearby town of Abu Ghraib, Irao

tason Chudy/Stars and Stripes









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U.S. soldiers question a driver at a checkpoint on the road leading to Baghdad airport. American troops fired on the car rushing Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after a month in captivity Friday night, killing the Italian intelligence officer who helped negotiate her release and woundingSgrena.

Road: 'It is a battleground; without rules or certainties'

Having reported from Iraq for much of the last two years, I was initially dismayed to hear that a fellow journalist having survived the unimaginable stress and fear of being a hostage was then the victim of an American military shooting. But when I learned the incident occurred on the airport road, it became, at one level, un-derstandable.

Bad things happen on the airport road - all the time. Many people who travel it

on a regular basis have a personal horror story, a moment when they thought, "this might be it." Everyone else has a friend who has had

one

Since the war, the airport road has not been any ordi-

nary highway.

It is a battleground: a place without rules or certainties, a place where there are no guarantees of safety for civilians or soldiers of any nationality

For the ordinary traveler, there are two hazards: the wary, short-fused American troops who have lost dozens of their comrades to roadside hombs and ambushes on the road, and the insurgents who target the U.S. military

convoys that ply the route.

It is a road to be approached with caution, with a plan, with wariness of every other car and every American convoy

About five hours before Sgrena was shot. I was on the same road. traveling in the opposite direction from the airport into Baghdad with what has become routine unease. Rather than looking at the scenery, I stared straight ahead and felt a faint nausea.

Most organizations whose emplovees must travel the route have rules for how to do it. Like most security measures in war zones, they are gospel until the day they don't work. Some people use armored vehicles and have chase cars with armed guards, believing that while they may be conspicuous, at least in an armored car they will survive if insurgents open fire.

Others who are wary that armored vehicles might attract the insurgents will only travel in old

No one talks much about the reality that only the heaviest armor (the kind used by the military) can withstand a roadside bomb. bombs. Few civilian cars are outfitted with that amount of armor

I travel in an old Iraqi car, and dress in a black gown and head scarf so as not to attract attention. When a military convoy appears, my driver slows down and waits for it to get at least half a mile ahead before we pick up our pace again. If we get too close and insurgents open fire on the convoy, we fear we may get hit.

As the road slipped by on Fri-

It is a road to be approached with caution, with a plan, with wariness of every other car and every American convoy.

> day, I was struck by the calm of the scene, and yet aware of my suspicions. Were the three chil dren playing in the scrub by the side of the road just in need of a playground, or they had they been trained to step on a detona tor as a U.S. convoy moves by? Was the dead goat stuffed with ex-plosives? Could the quiet neighborhood with hardly a car in sight hide insurgents?

"See, that's where there was an IED," said my driver, Ahmad, using the military's shorthand for improvised explosive device. "You can see the pit," he said gesturing to a crater

He pointed to the charred shell of a car sitting a few feet off the shoulder

"See that, that's a bomb car." he said.

"Last summer I was here, driving from the airport, and sudden-ly, 'Boom!' A Humvee ahead of us was hit. I said, 'It's OK, it's OK and then everyone began shoot-ing — the Americans, the Iraqis over there," he said, gesturing to

the nearby neighborhood.

One of the mosques near the beginning of the route. Ibn Tamimi. is well known as an insurgent cen-ter. When U.S. soldiers searched it, they found rocket- propelled grenades, ammunition and guns

Further on is a neighborhood amed Jihad and another name Furat, where former intelligence officers from the Saddam Hussein regime live.

"Very tough place," declared Ahmad

Insurgents hide in the neighborhood and scurry out to lay bombs that can be detonated at a dis-

tance with cell phones or garage door openers. Sometimes they shoot from the rooftops of houses

The military is up against a community that may not like the insurgents but is afraid to turn them in. An Iraqi friend said he has a brother-in-law who lives in Amariya and knows which houses were used by insurgents targeting the road.

"I know but I will never tell because they would find out and kill me," he said.

Americans have tried to make it difficult for insurto operate along the road. They have chopped down palm trees and taken down fences that insurgents hid behind.

They have put up observation cameras. They have handed out leaflets and warned people who live in the area not to collaborate with insurgents. But insurgents keep finding new modes of attack

On Friday, a military convoy sped by. We stopped, letting it go far ahead. Next we sighted two SUVs that looked like they might be carrying security contractors Again we slowed, for fear that in-surgents might target them.

Suddenly Ahmad sped up, barreling down the rough highway at nearly 80 mph. My worries about insurgents and skittish U.S. soldiers quickly turned to fear of a car accident as he honked to get

cars to move out of the way. He believed we were being followed. A burgundy car with three men in it was visible in our rear view mirror, speeding close behind us.

We couldn't tell if they were

Finally, we lost them and slowed down. As we drew up to our hotel, we saw the car again it had been the chase car of anoth-er news organization. The mis-placed suspicion would have been funny, if the situation had not been so dangerous.

The Italians were on the road at a far worse time. Although there are few attacks at night there is also little visibility, and the U.S. military suspects every vehicle.

Like us, Sgrena must have been frightened of being on the road. But having just escaped from in-surgents, I wonder if she ever thought she'd be mistaken for one of them?

28 U.S. troops from Hawaii remembered

The Associated Press

HONOLULU - A baby who was never held by his father. A wife who will never hear her husband's voice. A mother who will never see her only son's smile.

On Monday afternoon, they were invited to attend a rare memorial service at the state Capitol rotunda honoring 28 Ha-waii-based servicemen, all but one killed in a single helicopter crash in Iraq.

Twenty-six Kaneohe Marines and a Pearl Harbor sailor were among the 31 service personnel killed when their helicopter went down in western Iraq in late Janu-

It was the single deadliest event for the American military in Iraq since the United States invaded that country in March 2003, and it was the largest numcident since the terrorist bomb-Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983.

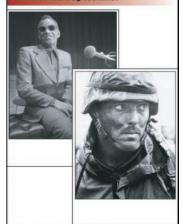
Family members from the mainland and hundreds of ser vicemembers based on Oahu were expected to attend the memorial, including busloads from the Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay.
"At the end of the day, we hope

the families feel that we have appropriately honored their son's sacrifices," said Chuck Little, a spokesman for Marine Forces Pa-

With the deaths in the helicop ter crash, a total of 43 Marines from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have been killed in the Iraq war.
"It's had a tremendous impact"

on the base, Kaneohe spokesman Capt. Chris Perrine said. "It's very sobering and painful to lose brother Marines

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IN THE STATES



U. of Colorado president to resign

BY JON SARCHE The Associated Press

DENVER — University of Colorado President Elizabeth Hoffman announced Monday that she is resigning amid a football recruiting scandal and a national controversy over an activist professor who compared victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to a notorious Nazi.

Football program, professor scandals plagued tenure

Hoffman, who has been president for five years, told the Board of Regents in a letter that her resignation is effective June 30 or whenever the board names a successor.

"It appears to me it is in the university's best interest that I remove the issue of my future from the debate so that nothing inhibits CU's ability to successfully create the bright future it so deserves," Hoffman wrote.

An independent commission reported last year that Colorado players used sex, alcohol and marijuana as recruiting tools.

And in February, administra-

tors took the first steps toward a possible dismissal of professor Ward Churchill, who likened World Trade Center victims to Nazi Adolph Eichmann.

"I've taken my future off the table so to some extent I can focus my attention on issues that face the university and not on my personal future," Hoffman said in an interview.

She cited the upcoming trial of a civil lawsuit that stemmed from the football recruiting scandal.

"Sometimes you need to say take the next step and that's what I've decided," Hoffman said. "I'think it's really important to focus my attention on what needs to be done and not feel that I have to defend myself against attacks.

Regent Michael Carrigan declined to comment on her resigna-

At least nine women have said they were assaulted by Colorado football players or recruits since 1997.

Just last week, a grand jury said two female trainers alleged they were sexually assaulted by an assistant coach and that a "slush fund" was created with money from coach Gary Barnett's football camp, according to a report leaked to the media.

The grand jury, which finished meeting Aug. 19, handed up a single indictment accusing a former football recruiting aide of soliciting a prostitute for himself and misusing a school-issued cell phone.

A parallel investigation by then-Attorney General Ken Salazar into the alleged assaults resulted in no charges; prosecutors cited concerns about evidence and the reluctance of the women to go forward with the cases.

Hoffman said the school fully cooperated with the grand jury and launched financial audits of Barnett's football camp and the university's fund raising arm, even though both are independent organizations.

A review of Churchill's speeches and writings is being conducted to determine if the professor overstepped his boundaries of academic freedom and whether that should be grounds for dismissal.

The furor over Churchill erupted in January after he was invited to speak at Hamilton College in upstate New York. Campus officials discovered an essay and follow-up book in which he said the Sept. 11 attacks were a response to a history of American abuses abroad, particularly against indigenous peoples.

Among other things, he said the people killed in the trade center were "little Eichmanns," a reference to the man who organized Nazi plans to exterminate Jews. The college canceled Churchill's appearance, citing death threats and concerns about security.



Supreme Court limits secrecy in tax cases

BY HOPE YEN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court eliminated some of the secrecy faced by Americans taking tax disputes to the U.S. Tax Court, ruling Monday that factual recommendations in the

proceedings must be disclosed. While the official opinions of the tax court are made public, people are not allowed to see recommendations by specially ap-pointed judges who hold trials in involving more than \$50,000, and who also write detailed reports.

In a 7-2 decision, the court said that was wrong, finding it to be a violation of tax court rules. It noted that initial findings made by magistrate and bankruptcy judges in other proceedings are

"However efficient the Tay Court's practice may be, we find no warrant for it in the rules the Tax Court publishes," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote for the majority.

"The commissioner may not rely on the tax court's arbitrary construction of its own rules to insulate special trial judges from disclosure."

In a dissent, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist said justices should defer to the Tax Court's interpretation of its own rules. He said while the Tay Court had released the fact reports for 40 vears, a rules change in 1983 arguably allowed them to stop the practice

Taxpayers fighting with the Internal Revenue Service may use traditional courts if they pay the IRS first, then sue to recover the money. The U.S. Tax Court is available to people who want to contest IRS findings before pay-ing any cash. The president names the 19 members

The case involved a pair of appeals that stem from accusations that a real estate executive. Claude Ballard, and a prominent. now-deceased tax attorney with ties to Hollywood Burton Kanter were part of a kickback scheme. The IRS sought \$30 million in

back taxes and penalties. In other decisions, the Su-

preme Court:

Voted 5-3 to limit federal judges' sentencing power, ruling that judges may examine only agreements or defendants admissions regarding prior convictions not police reports or other evidence, when tacking on prison time. Rehnquist did not participate in the case.

■ Ruled 8-1 that two Ohio prison inmates may file federal civil rights complaints in an effort to get parole hearings denied them

by the state. ■ Declined to consider wheth er a black truck driver, Tyrone Williams, who is accused in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants, was improperly singled out for a possible death sentence because

Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., center, walks arm in arm with other members of Congress on the Edmund Pettus

Bridge in Selma, Ala., on Sunday to mark the 40th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march. From left are Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif.; Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif.; Lewis; Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md.; Rep. Arthur Davis, D-Ala., and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

40 years later, congressman marks historic rights march rally at the Capitol on Saturday.

The Associated Press

SELMA, Ala. — Rep. John Lewis returned to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, 40 years after he braved billy clubs and tear gas in one of the grimmest, goriest spectacles of the civil rights move-

"President Johnson signed that act, but it was written by the people of Selma," said Lewis, who was clubbed on the head during the "Bloody Sunday" attack on marchers by state troopers and sheriff's deputies on March 7,

He was among 17 blacks hospitalized as that march was turned back while crossing the bridge. Participants also included sing-

er Harry Belafonte, who was at the demonstration 40 years ago, and Coretta Scott King, whose husband, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., led a second march two weeks later to the state Capitol.

"The freedom we won here in

44 The freedom we won here in Selma and on the road to

Montgomery was purchased with the precious blood of many. 77

> Coretta Scott King widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Selma and on the road to Montgomery was purchased with the precious blood of many," said King, who crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in a car.

Police estimated the crowd at nearly 10,000. A re-enactment of the five-day march is planned week, culminating with a In a service at Brown Chapel,

six blocks from the bridge, Lewis cited former President Bill Clinton, who crossed the bridge with Selma marchers in 2000, and former Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman as white politicians who have greeted modern civil rights concerns with open arms. Certain provisions of the Vot-

ing Rights Act, such as the use of federal examiners and a requirement for Justice Department approval of election law changes, will be up for renewal by Congress in 2007. The Rev. Joseph Lowery, long-time head of the Southern Chris-

tian Leadership Conference, urged the nearly three dozen House and Senate members who participated to renew those portions of the law. "Their presence here is a mock-

ery unless they go home and do the right thing," said Lowery, who also joined King on the march to the Capitol.

III. tsunami victim

EVANSTON, Ill. - The remains of a 33-year-old Illinois man who died in the Asian tsunami have been found in Thailand, his family said. Ben Abels was vacationing on

the island of Phi Phi when his beachside bungalow was inundat-ed with water Dec. 26. Abels had been missing since the disaster.

Boeing ousts CEO

CHICAGO - Boeing Co. abruptly forced out its president and chief executive officer, Harry Stonecipher, for what the company said Monday was a violation of the company's code of business conduct stemming from a relationship the married, 68-year-old Stonecipher had with a female Boeing executive. The stunning ouster makes

Stonecipher the second CEO to depart the Chicago-based airplane maker and defense contractor in disgrace in the past 15 months. His predecessor. Phil Condit, resigned Dec. 1, 2003, as a result of the defense contracting scandals

Physicist Bethe dies

ITHACA, N.Y. - Hans Bethe, e of the last of the giants of 20th-century physics, who who ing the first atomic bomb and won a Nobel Prize for figuring out how the sun and other stars nerate energy, died Sunday at

During World War II, he was a key figure in the building of the first atomic bomb as head of the Manhattan Project's theoretical physics division at Los Alam-os, N.M.

Martha back to work

NEW YORK -After five onths in prison, Martha Stew art is wasting little time smelling the roses. Stewart was expected Monday to report back to her company's corporate headquar-ters in Manhattan and get back

She planned to meet with her employees at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. and was to address a staff diminished by layoffs in her absence, but also no doubt encouraged by a rising stock price. From The Associated Press



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A hazmat worker suits up to return to a tanker car in Salt Lake City that began leaking chemicals Sunday morning. Local police evacuated nearby residents Sunda afternoon, but returned Monday after crews finished pumping out the last of the chemicals Monday.



Utah officials concerned over tanker chemical leak

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY - Crews early Monday finished pumping toxic waste from a leaking rail tanker car that triggered the evacuation of 6,000 people, but they still don't know exactly what they're dealing with

Early Monday, residents were back in their home the cleanup was under way and most of the closed highways nearby were about to be reopened.

The area downwind of the leak was evacuated Sunday because of fumes from the spill, Fire Chief Steve Foote said. Officials were angered that they could not pin down what was in the tank. The information they were given conflicted with their own observations.

The tanker car's manifest said it was sulfuric and hydrofluoric acids; the company told them it was hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, nitric and sulfuric acids. Late Sunday, the company corrected itself, saving the contents were phosphoric, acetic, sulfuric and tration of only 10 percent.

"What's concerning to us is the concentration level," Foote said, saying the waste appeared to be of a much higher concentration.

The tanker car originally carried 13,000 gallons of nitric acid at 94 percent concentration from Kennecott Utah Copper - a mining, smelting, and refin ing company - to Darwin, Nev., Foote said. He said the tanker car, sublet to another company, was then loaded with the industrial waste and the train arrived at the Roper Rail Yard in South Salt Lake on Sunday.

It was supposed to be taken to Ohio, where the waste was to be solidified and buried, but the tanker was found to be leaking.

Officials spent all day trying to find out what was in the tanker from a company they first identified as Phillips Environmental but later called Philip Services.

"The rules are absolutely specific," about detail-

ing contents being shipped, Foote said. "Somebody dropped the ball here.

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11 of 13 small cars flunk institute's side-impact testing

The Chevrolet

earned the

rating of

their optional

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN

- The Dodge Neon, Ford Focus and Volk swagen's New Beetle are among the small cars that got the lowest safety rating in new side-impact crash tests performed by an independent, nonprofit organization.

Eleven of the 13 cars tested earned a "poor, Cobalt and the the lowest four ratings, the Touota Corolla Insurance Insti-tute for High-way Safety said. second-highest The Chevrolet Cobalt and the Toyota Corolla earned the sec-"acceptable," but ond-highest rat-ing of "accept-able," but only only when they but only when they were tested with tested with their optional side air They bags. side air bags. earned earned "poor" ratings without

the air bags. Other vehicles that earned a "poor" rating were the Hyundai Elantra, Kia Spectra, Mazda 3, Mitsubishi Lancer, Nissan Sentra, Saturn Ion, Suzuki Forenza and Suzuki Aerio. The results were released Sunday.

The institute's test simulates a severe crash. A barrier designed to resemble the front of a pickup or sport utility vehicle hits the side of the vehicle at 31 mph. A "poor" rating means a high chance of serious injury in a similar crash.

Four of the vehicles tested the Elantra, New Beetle, Forenza and Spectra - have standard. head-protecting side air bags. But the institute's chief operating officer, Adrian Lund, said the cars had poor structure that failed to prevent injuries to the

torso and pelvis. Several of the vehicles offer op tional side air bags, but the institute will only test those vehi-cles without side air bags unless the manufacturer provides a second vehicle with the option in-stalled.

Toyota Motor Co. provided the Corolla with side air bags and Gen-Motors Corp. provided the Cobalt and Saturn Ion. But

even when it was tested with its optional side air bags, the Ion got a "poor" rating because the institute said it didn't adequately protect the driver's lower body

The institute was most critical of the Neon, saying the car performed so poorly that the driver likely wouldn't have survived the crash. DaimlerChrysler AG defended the Neon, saying it meets federal safety standards and its performance is similar to other small cars.

Study: Campaign upped Internet news traffic

NEW YORK - Reliance on the Internet for political news during last year's U.S. presidential campaign grew sixfold from 1996, while newspaper influence dropped sharply, according to a study

Eighteen percent of American adults cited the Internet as one of their two main sources of news about the presidential races, compared with 3 percent in 1996. The reliance on television grew slightly to 78 percent, up from 72 percent.

Meanwhile, the influence of newspapers dropped to 39 percent last year, from 60 percent in 1996, according to the joint, telephone-based survey from the Pew Research Center for The People and the Press and the Pew Internet and American Life Project that was released Sun-

Nonetheless, Americans who got campaign news over the Internet were more likely to visit sites of major news organizations such as CNN and The New York Times (43 percent) rather than Internet-only resources such as candidate Web sites and Web journals, known as blogs (24 percent)

Twenty-eight percent said they primarily used news pages of America Online Inc., Yahoo Inc. and other online services, which carry dispatches from traditional news sources such as The Associated Press

Sharpton proposes radio ban

NEW YORK - Rev. Al Sharpton said he will propose a 90-day ban on radio and television airplay for any performer who uses violence in their music to make a profit.

The activist and former presidential candidate plans to ask the Federal Communications Commission and major radio broadcasters around the country to support the ban.

Sharpton's announcement follows last week's shooting at the WQHT-FM studios that was suspected to be started by a feud between rappers 50 Cent and The Game.



Sharpton

From The Associated Press

Study: Aspirin cuts stroke risk in women

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. - Middle-age women can cut their risk of strokes but not heart attacks by regularly taking low doses of aspirin, and the pills help prevent both problems in women 65 and older, a major study found.

The results are opposite what is known about aspirin in men, where its benefit for stroke is limited and its ability to prevent heart problems is legendary. Since women proportionately suffer more strokes and men more heart attacks, this is generally good news, specialists said

Researchers also found that taking vitamin E did no good for

Low doses not found to benefit heart, as seen in men

women of any age, confirming a study last fall that concluded supplements of this nutrient could even be harmful

The new information comes from the Women's Health Study, the first rigorous, scientific test of whether long-term use of aspirin or vitamin E made a difference in cardiovascular risk in females

Previous research has been almost exclusively in males.

Findings were reported Monday at an American College of Cardiology meeting in Orlando. They also were being published online by the New England Journal of Medicine and will be in the March 31 print edition.

health implications," said Dr. Elizabeth Nabel, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funded the research with the National Cancer

"In contrast to men, aspirin did not reduce the risk of nonfatal or fatal heart attacks in women of all ages but did so in women over age 65," she said.

The study was led by Julie Buring, Dr. Paul Ridker and others at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School Many have been consultants to aspirin makers, but the companies did not run the federally funded study. Bayer Healthcare supplied aspirin for it and the Natural Source Vitamin E Association supplied that nutrient.

In the study, 40,000 female health professionals 45 and older were randomly assigned to take either fake pills or 100 milligrams of aspirin - slightly more than the 81-milligram "baby aspirin" pills commonly sold — every other day

After 10 years, aspirin users had a 17 percent lower risk of stroke, and a 24 percent lower risk of strokes caused by blood clots, owing, researchers believe,

to aspirin's well-known anti-clot ting properties.

Women 65 and older got even more benefit: They were 30 percent less likely to have a stroke caused by a blood clot and 34 nercent less likely to suffer a heart at-

Aspirin's benefits were greatest for nonsmokers and former smokers, and didn't vary among women who did or did not use hormones after menopause.

The study "demonstrates the importance of studying medical therapies among women as well as men," Buring said. "We finally have the evidence base needed for women to make rational decisions about the use of aspirin in preventing cardiovascular dis-

Drug-coated stents open possibilities

Tiny metal scaffolds that prop open arteries and are drug-coated has transformed heart treatment. Nearly nine out of 10 stents used in the United States now are drug-coated.



Drug-coated stents could prevent bypass surgery

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. - New research comparing rival brands of drug-coated, tiny mesh tubes called stents finds they are equally excellent at keeping heart arteries open, and that one may be better for diabetics.

These devices, which slowly leach medication into blood ves sels to keep them from squeezing shut after procedures to remove blockages, have revolutionized heart care so much in the last few years that studies now are aimed at finding which ones work best for which natients - not whether they work at all.

They are vastly better than the plain old metal stents that were standard just a few years ago. Results on the new ones are so good that more patients are being successfully treated with them and avoiding a more drastic alternative heart bypass surgery.

Two are on the market — Boston Scientific Corp.'s Taxus stent, and Cypher, made by Cordis Corp., a Johnson & Johnson company

Natick, Mass.-based Boston Scientific Corp.'s Taxus stent was approved last year.

"Both devices have made remarkable progress" in treating

heart disease, said Dr. Gregg Stone, a cardiologist at Columbia University Medical Center, who was not involved in the comparison studies

New studies on stents were nresented Sunday at an American College of Cardiology conference in Orlando. They showed that benefits apparently last for years, and that even very big blockages in very small vessels — some two inches long - can be fixed with such stents, sometimes using overlapping ones.

The devices work so well that when an older stent clogs, it's better to put a new drug-coated one inside it than to treat the problem with radiation as has been done in the past, one study found.

Competitors also are being developed that could help cut the price of these devices. One novel type even dissolves in the body once its job is done.

"It's looking very good," Dr. Gerald Fletcher, a Mayo Clinic cardiologist, said of the evidence for drug-coated stents. "The benefit is going to be substantial in the

Clogged arteries can cause a heart attack. One solution is open-heart bypass surgery, in which blood vessels from elsewhere in the body are used to create detours around blockages

South Beach Diet researchers help to develop school menus

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER The Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. - Nine-year-old Kelly Ferrer no longer gets the waffles, pancakes and sugar cereals that she loved eating for breakfast last year at Mill Creek Elementary School's cafeteria.

This year, instead, she is served whole wheat bread, lowfat cheese and fruit as part of a study by a research center founded by Dr. Arthur Agatston, the author of "The South Beach Diet."

The goal of the study at six schools in this Orlando suburb is to evaluate whether school cafeterias are capable of serving more nutritious ingredients, if kids will eat them and whether students' health improves from better eating.

The program underscores growing concerns across the nation about childhood obesity. The National Institutes of Health estimates that about one out of five U.S. children are obese, a problem that may lead to diabetes, high blood pressure and heart

"We're not putting the children on The South Beach Diet," said Danielle Hollar, deputy director of research at the Agatston Research Institute. "We're trying to provide healthier options for these children and in the long run we hope they learn to eat healthier and incorporate that into their daily liv-

Although the 3,000 students involved in the study haven't been put on the low-carb diet per se, many of the diet's guiding principles have been incorporat ed into school menus

White bread and white flour products have been stricken and replaced with whole-wheat products. White potatoes were replaced with sweet potatoes. French fries were abolished. Grilled chicken replaced breaded chicken. Fruits have taken the place of sweets for desserts.

Students at the beginning of the school year were weighed, their height measured and their blood pres-sure and pulse recorded. Those same measurements will be taken in April. The institute has paid for the \$10,000 extra cost



IN THE WORLD

Syrian troop pullback to be done by end of March

DAMASCUS, Syria — The presidents of Syria and Lebanon on Monday announced that the withdrawal of Syrian troops to Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley would be completed by the end of March but deferred a final troop pullout until later negotiations.

The announcement, made after a meeting between Syrian President Bashar Assad and Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, said Syrian troops will pull back from northern and central Lebanon to the east, near Syria's border.

Following that redeployment, military officials from both countries will decide within a month on "the size and duration of the presence of the Syrian forces" in the Bekaa Valley and establish the relationship between these forces and Lebanese authorities.

Heavy snow leaves dozens of tourists stranded

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Rescue teams were struggling Monday to clear a snow-blocked road and free 54 tourists stranded at a mountain resort, the Balkan country's Civil Protection agency said.

The agency did not provide information on the tourists' nationality, but they are believed to be Bulgarians as the resort is not a popular destination among foreign tourists.

It began snowing heavily Sunday in the Rila Mountains, and by Monday snow drifts, some as high as 16 feet, were blocking the only road to the Belmeken resort.

Poland crippled with heavy snowfall

WARSAW, Poland — Some eight inches of snow blanketed Poland overnight, causing accidents and snarling traffic across the country Monday as overburdened crews worked to clear the roads.

Six people were hospitalized after a small bus skidded off the road near Krosniewice, in central Poland, the Polish news agency PAP reported.

Landslide in Azores kills one, leaves two missing

LISBON, Portugal — A landslide triggered by heavy rains in the Azores killed a man and left his wife and son missing, officials said. The three were in a car Sunday night on the island of Sao Miguel when it was hit by the landslide.

Firemen on Monday found the body of the 40-year-old man, who was thought to have been driving the car, a few miles from where the vehicle was struck.

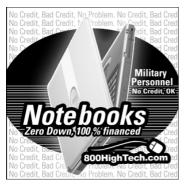
Five Uzbeks arrested outside U.S. Embassy

BAKU, Azerbaijan — Five citizens of Uzbekistan were arrested outside the U.S. Embassy in the Azerbaijani capital and charged with bribery and use of fraudulent documents in connection with attempts to obtain American visas, the embassy said Monday.

"The organizers may face alien smuggling charges," the embassy said in a terse statement.

From The Associated Press

HOTEL FORSTHAUS BY GARMISCH Strating Peb 22, 2005 Winter Paradise VAT Forms Ending Apr 7, 2005 Stay 3 Nights - 4th Night Is *FREE Accepted G3 per person, double occupancy, per night Free Breakfast A ramily Apartments Hot Tub Saunas Dogs Welcome - American Owned Tels 0882-1709 Fare 0882-1914 Enalls bedeits bershaus-observade www.forsthaus-observade www.forsthaus-observade





The coffin of late Italian intelligence officer Nicola Calipari is shoulder-carried during his state funeral in Rome on Monday. Calipari was killed in Iraq when U.S. forces opened fire on the car he was traveling in with freed Italian hostage journalist Gulliana Sgrean on Friday.

Funeral held for intelligence officer killed by U.S. troops

BY MARIA SANMINIATELLI

The Associated Press

ROME — Some 20,000 mourners paid their last respects Monday at a state funeral for an Italian intelligence officer killed by American troops in Iraq while escorting an ex-hostage to freedom.

Among those honoring Nicola Calipari in the Santa Maria degli Angeli Church were Premier Silvio Berlusconi, President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi and other top officials, including U.S. Ambassador-Mel Sembler and Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni.

An honor guard slowly carried the casket, draped with an Italian flag, into the church, where the crowd stood to appland. In the front row, Calipari's widow, Rosa Maria, and relatives gripped each other's hands and dabbed away tears. Several mourners buried their faces in their hands



Continued a financial section of the continued and the continued a

■ White House rejects claim that U.S. forces targeted Italian journalist , Page 5

"He died as a hero, and I cannot forget he had also helped to free us," said Maurizio Agliana, one of four Italian security guards kidnapped in Iraq in

The 90-minute funeral was carried live on several TV stations, including Vatican television.

Calipari's body had lain in state at Rome's Vittoriano monument after it was returned from Iraq on Saturday night, with tens of thousands of people streaming past the coffin.

"I think it's absurd that things are going this way in Iraq, when people die because of someone else's decision," said 30-year-old architect Giorgia Semprini, who was among thousands of people gathered quietly in the piazza outside the church.

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Journalist Giuliana Sgrena, the hostage whose life Calipari saved, said it was possible the car she and Calipari were riding in was targeted deliberately because the United States opposes Italy's policy of negotiating with kidnap-

Calipari was killed Friday when U.S. troops at a checkpoint fired at the car as it headed to the airport shortly after Sgrena's release. Sgrena, who was abducted Feb. 4 in Baghdad, was recovering in a Rome hospital from a shrannel wound to the shoulder.

ing in a Rome hospital from a shrapnel wound to the shoulder. The White House described the shooting as a "horrific accident" and promised a full investigation.

and promised a full investigation.
An autopsy was performed Sunday, and the Italian news agency
ANSA quoted doctors as saying
he was struck in the temple by a
single round and died instantly.

Sgrena said Calipari died shielding her. She offered no evidence to support her claim that the attack was deliberate, and in an interview published in Monday's edition of the daily Corriere della Sera, she said she does not know what led to the attack. The shooting has fueled

anti-American sentiment in Italy, where a majority of people opposed the war in Iraq and Berlusconi's decision to send 3,000 troops after Saddam Hussein's ouster.

"Italy is a great country, and this is why we must ask for precise and detailed explanations of what happened from the American government and get them quickly," Sandro Bondi, national coordinator of Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, was quoted as saying by ANSA.

Calipari was to be awarded a gold medal of valor for heroism.

Kuwaitis debating women's voting rights

BY DIANA ELIAS The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY - Kuwait's Cabinet on Monday hastened a parliamentary debate on an amendment it proposed to this conservative Gulf state's election law, which aims to give women the right to vote and stand as political candidates.

The decision came during a parliamentary session attended by hundreds of women activists who had earlier demonstrated outside the legislature demanding equal voting rights for women in Ku-wait, a close U.S. ally that was until recently the sole democracy among Gulf Arab states.

Last month, Cabinet asked for the parliament to speed up delib-eration on the amendment, which it introduced last year. The request came after 10 legislators proposed the constitutional court rule on the 1962 election law that restricts political rights to women

Deputy prime minister, Mohammed Sharar, said the request to speed up debate needed no vote. He said he would meet with a Parliamentary committee to discuss the proposal and set a date for a vote by the all-male house.

At one stage, Kuwaiti women watching from the parliament's gallery broke out into applause after a lawmaker backed the amendment. But the parliament's sneaker ordered them and the rest of the gallery out after the out-

EXCHANGE RATES

EXCITATION INTO	
Military rates	
Euro costs	1.3574
Euro costs S Dollar buys 6 British pound Japanese yen (March 5) South Korean won (March 5)	0.7367
British pound	\$1.97
Japanese ven (March 5)	102.00
South Korean won (March 5)	.982.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	.37698
British pound	\$1.97
Canada (Dollar)	1.2305
Denmark (Krone)	5.32
Egypt (Pound)	5.7925
Euro\$1.3574/	0.7367
Hong Kong (Dollar)	.7.7992
Hungary (Forint)	.182.80
Iceland (Krona)	59.02
Israel (Shekel)	4.3290
Japan (Yen)	.104.68
Norway (Krone) Philippines (Peso) Saudi Arabia (Riyal) Singapore (Dollar) South Korea (Won)	5.88
Philippines (Peso)	54.78
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.58
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6250
South Korea (Won)1	.006.54
Thailand (Baht)	38.38
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buying currency. All figures are f	oreign

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

INTEREST	IVALES
Prime rate	5.51
Discount rate	3.51
Federal funds marke	t rate2.51
3-month bill	
30-year bond	4.6



Afghan refugee women walk inside an abandoned building in Kabul, Afghanistan, where they and other returning exiles are living Friday. Three years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan has appointed the first female provincial governor, and later this year, its people will elect a new parliament, with 25 percent

Afghanistan women begin journey to political parity

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - Fifteen Afghan men, heads slightly howed file into a crowded living room to greet the recently appointed chief of Bamiyan province. They sip tea and listen patiently as the new governor holds court

Such a courtesy call is common. place in this deeply hierarchical society when someone wins high office - save for one critical difference: On this occasion, the men's respect is directed toward a woman, the first female governor in this Islamic nation's long and tortured history.

Three years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan is casting off the shackles of fundamental ism that once barred its women from public life, kept girls from

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON school and barred women from working. The selection of Habiba Sarobi

to head the central highland province of Bamiyan is a new milestone, but the governor is the first to acknowledge that it masks a sad reality. "There are equal rights for women on paper. The challenge is to put it into practice

Afghanistan is still a male-dominated society," Sarobi said.

For the vast majority of Afghan

women, little has changed since the Taliban's ouster, with their daily lives dominated by archaic traditions and grinding poverty.

Women's literacy rates are just 14 percent, a third of what they are for men. Before Afghanistan descended

into war two decades ago, women were no strangers to high office. As early as the 1950s, they served in the legislature, and worked as

1970s. a woman served as the minister of health. During the Soviet occupation of the 1980s, up to 70

percent of teachers were women. A wave of fundamentalism swept the country after Islamic holy warriors ousted the Soviet army in 1989 — culminating seven years later in the rule of the Taliban

Since the hard-line regime's ouster by U.S.-led forces in late 2001, millions of girls have returned to school. And while women are still mostly on the periphery of public life and business, career opportunities have reopened for them, at least in cities.

Women's rights were en-shrined in a democratic constitution adopted in early 2004. But skeptics - and even the high-profile women appointees them-selves — concede they have little political clout

Artificial heart for twin

BELIING - Surgeons in China who are preparing to separate conjoined twin boys will let one keep their shared heart and give the other an artificial heart, a news report said Monday

Doctors have said the risky surgery to separate the 3-month-old boys should go ahead because they will die without it. They also share a liver and intestines

Children in containers

LAGOS, Nigeria found more than 60 children packed into a shipping container in Lagos, and a police spokesman said Monday it was believed they were to be sold as slaves or ser-

A woman accompanying the children was arrested after police discovered between 60 and 70 boys and girls ages five to 14 on Sunday in Lagos. Nigeria's largest city. The children were in a container normally used for carry-ing fish, said a Nigerian police

Art stolen, recovered

OSLO. Norway - Three works of art by Norwegian master Edvard Munch — including a unique watercolor titled "Blue Dress" — were recovered Mon-Dress" — were recovered Mon-day, less than 24 hours after thieves with crowbars pried them loose from a restaurant's walls, police said

Authorities also made several arrests in the capital, police spokesman Iver Stensrud said.

He declined to say how many were detained or give details about the condition of the stolen watercolor and two lithographs.

Moldova elections

CHISINAU, Moldova - Moldova's governing pro-Western Communists won a parliamentary majority in national elections, but fell short of taking enough seats to re-elect President Vladimir Voronin, according to final results released Monday.

With all the ballots counted. Voronin's Communists had some 46 percent of the vote in Sunday's election, down from the 50 percent the party polled in 2001 elections, the Central Electoral Commission said.

From The Associated Press

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Money resources for women

Knight Ridder News Service

Women have a variety of resources available when looking for financial information, particularly on the Internet. Several Web sites offer finan-

cial information tailored to women, offering advice on everything from retirement planning

Here is a sampling of some of the sites with good financial information:

■ BlueSuitMom.com, www.bluesuitmom.com/money

Serves up an array of financial subjects important to women.

■ MsMoney.com, (www.msmoney.com) Features investment strategies, loan and

credit information and more. ■ Women's Finance

(www.womens-finance.com) Covers a host of topics, from budgeting to taxes and investing.

■ Women's Institute for Financial Education (www.wife.org/money—invest) Provides insights on a variety of

investment topics. ■ Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement

(www.wiser.heinz.org/managesavings) Offers information on geared toward retirement sav-

Prince Charles in New Zealand



FOTOPRESS/AF

Britain's Prince Charles greets with hongis, traditional Maori welcome, with Lt. Tamahou Ripia on his arrival Monday at Government House in Wellington, New Zealand. Prince Charles is making a five day visit to New Zealand



Fancy Nancy

French city prepares for celebration

By John Taylor Stars and Stripes

ancy, France, is a city known for its art, architecture and city design. It is a place everyone should go see.

Just don't do it now.

The city's grandest attraction, Place Stanislas, is undergoing renovation. The "metamorphosis" is in preparation for this year's 250th anniversary of its creation and is scheduled to be completed in April — although a clerk at the nearby tourist office told us it would be ready in May

May,
The Place was designed to
honor French King Louis XV by
his father-in-law, Stanislas Lesczynski. Stanislas had been king
of Poland briefly, and a
French-backed effort to restore
him to power failed. However,
he was made duke of Lorraine
by the French king, and from a
position of comfort promoted
the arts, sciences and the good

Place Stanislas forms a rectangle, about the size of three football fields lying side by side. It is open in the middle except for a statue of Stanislas — the original statue of Louis XV was destroyed during the French Revolution and replaced by the one of Stanislas in 1831.

The Place is surrounded by matching buildings, including the town hall. At its corners are gates with elaborate grill work,

parts of them painted gold. It has two fountains, the larger one completely covered as part of the renovation.

The Place is getting new drainage and paving stones and will be blocked off to traffic. Currently, it is possible only to walk along its borders. Howev-

er the restaurants, museums, shops and hotel housed in its 250-year-old buildings are open for business.

Outside one gate is Parc de la Pepinere, a large park with walking paths, cafes and a small 200. Outside another is Nancy's own Arc de Triomphe and the old town, including the Ducal Palace. The palace houses the Musée Historique Lorraine, with exhibits about the history of the area, including one of Stanislas that is running through March 21.



PHOTOS BY PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

A statue of Stanislas Lesczynski, duke of Lorraine and former king of Poland, marks the hub of Place Stanislas, which is under renovation.



About 150 years after the creation of Place Stanislas, Creation of Place Stanislas, Nancy again was an important center in design, Artists there developed art nouveau—a style of design that spread through Europe under different names, including Jugenstii in Germany, It mimicked nature with long, graceful lines, often in the shape of plant vines and tendrils, and was used in making glassware, jewelty, furniture, textile and Dosters.

For a brief period, architects used the same look to create

buildings. No longer were they rigid blocks with rectangular doors and windows, but rather structures with rounded arches, circular windows, balconies with railings that resembled plant stems and leaves, and turrets rising from the roofs and sides of buildings. Doors and windows often included patterns with colored glass, and inside there were drop ceilings with glass designs illuminated from

Several of these buildings are clustered along a pedestrian shopping area that runs from a few blocks from Place Stanislas down to the train station and beyond. One of the buildings is the Brasserie Excelsior, just across from the train station and a popular place for people to stop for a drink and to admire the scenery.

above by lights.

Nancy is still considered one of the centers for art nouveau architecture — along with the



Louis Majorelle designed the elaborate ironwork at Maison Weissenburger, which was designed by art nouveau architect Lucien Weissenburger at the beginning of the 20th century.



The Maison Weissenburger is one of Nancy's better-known art nouveau buildings.

larger cities of Paris; Brussels, Belgium; and Vienna, Austria. The tourist office has a map listing 67 buildings that can be viewed from the outside. You can step inside some of them for a quick look around, assuming you remember they are still a place of business and don't make a fuss.

E-mail John Taylor at: taylori@mail.estripes.osd.mil

On the QT



Take Autobahn 6 from the Kaiserslautern area to the French border, where it becomes Autoroute 4. Continue toward Paris, to the intersection with Autoroute 31 just past Metz. Head south until the exits for the center of Nancy, and follow signs for either Office de The Chief Ch



It is possible to go any time to see Place Stanislas and the art nouveau buildings, but the viewing of both would be better in good weather — say, after early May when the renovation work should be done. The Musée Historique Lorraine is closed on Tuesday, and the Musée de l'Ecole de Nancy, is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.



Admission to the Musée Historique Lorraine and the neighboring church is 3.10 euros for adults, 2.30 for children; the price for both the special Stanislas exhibit and museum is 6 euros, with the ticket good all day (the museum closes for 90 minutes at 12:30 p.m.) Admission to the Musée de l'Ecole de Nancy is 4.60 for adults, 2.30 for children.



Food

There are places to eat around Place Stanislas, the museums and the pedestrian shopping areas, including restaurants, cafes and carry-out sandwich shops. The Brasserie Excelsior serves meals, but they aren't cheap so you may be better off settling for a cup of coffee there.



The tourist office at Place Stanislas is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays and holidays from April to October, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays and holidays the rest of the year. Its Web site is www.ol-nancy.fr.

For a list of activities, see www.nancy2005.com.

- JOHN TAYLOR

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Not all veterans are retirees

As I have talked to several congression al aides and communicated with a few media personnel over the past year, one common theme seems to strike me. Most of them don't know the difference between a military veteran and a military retired

- veteran A "military veteran" is a person who served in the active military, naval or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.
- A "military retiree" is any former member of the uniformed services who is entitled, under statute, to retired, retirement or retainer pay. Examples include spending 20 or more years in the military or permanent retirement by reasons of physical disability.

All military retirees are military veterans, but not all military veterans are military retirees.

It appears that some congressional leaders, news media and the American people don't realize there is a difference between a veteran who spends 91 days in the military and is discharged and a veteran who spends 20 to 30 years in the military and retires. They don't seem to understand that medical care promises were made to both groups, but that they are different.

The military retiree was promised no-cost medical care for himself and his eligible dependents for life at military treatment facilities. The military veteran was promised medical care at a Veterans Affairs hospital or clinic basically for service-connected disabilities or medical conditions

We make this distinction to avoid the confusion that results when calculations are made concerning how much it will cost to finance the military retiree health care that was promised.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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We are told that the veterans community numbers about 26.5 million. The military retirees number about 1.8 million. Sometimes the military retirees get lost in the shuffle. Sometimes the wrong number is used when making calculations

Retired Air Force Capt. Ronald J. Shaw

'Close But no Cigars' badge

I believe the new Close Combat Badge should be renamed the Close But no Cigars badge, for only the rarified air that saturates the minds in the Pentagon would be so myopic in their vision.

But at least it is encouraging that the

Army wishes to recognize the contributions of other job areas in active ground

combat during this war on terror. But the question is why only 19 (armor), 13 (field artillery) and 12 (combat engineer) series? I find it curious that 14 (air

defense) and 35 (electronics) job fields are missed, not to mention many other fields. I am sure the five killed in action and over 80 wounded in action from Task Force 4-5 Air Defense Artillery during their tour might think otherwise, as well as the various military police units who have contrib-

uted significantly in this conflict We are a National Guard ADA battery, which was attached to Task Force 4-5. During our mobilization, we were task organized into an infantry company. Many are team leaders and some are squad leaders who have performed exemplarily. Just because they aren't one of three chosen fields, in what world does that make any

I think the Marine Corps has it right with its combat action ribbon: the Marines don't look solely at the job, but also look at the individual to ensure they meet those standards for the award, regardless of their military occupational specialty. My hope is that the powers that be con-

sider all career management fields to be eligible for this award as long as they meet "the standards." Let's broaden our vision, not limit it, and truly be an "Army of One. 1st Sgt. Robert C. Dedic

Alien soldiers worthy, too

We keep hearing complaints about the Combat Infantryman Badge and now the new badge for non-infantry soldiers. I'm happy for those soldiers who will receive the new badge.

Since they are making new badges and awards, why not make one for non-U.S. cit-izens in the armed forces? There are a lot of fellow troops who are put in danger to fight for our freedom and they do not get recognized.

That is a big issue with our Hispanic/Lat-

Sgt. Luis Angulo Forward Operating Base War Horse, Iraq

Freeing up the Freedom of Information Act

BY DALE MCFEATTERS Scripps Howard

he federal government's basic sunshine law is the Freedom of Information Act, passed in 1974 to ensure public access to the inner workings of government. But over the years, often through inattention or inertia but on occasion by intent, the effectiveness of the law has been diminished.

This has been especially true under the Bush administration, no great friend of openness, candor and transparency in gov-ernment. Indeed, early in Bush's first term, then-Attorney General John Ashcroft circulated a memo governmentwide urging agencies to take the most restrictive position on releasing information. He told the bureaucrats that "if you decide to withhold records, in whole or in part, rest assured that the Department of Justice will defend your decisions."

And when the Department of Homeland Security was created, the administration insisted on a large exemption from FOIA for the agency. As with much else, the administration invoked the rubric "national security" to justify its penchant for secretions for information deemed vital to national security. Some help is on the way through a bill in

Congress, the Openness Promotes Effec-tiveness in Our National Government Act, sponsored by Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas. The bill proposes no radical changes, only ways to make the law work as intended.

The existing law requires federal ager cies to respond to FOIA requests within 20 days; this proposed change would apply penalties if they don't. A common tactic is for uncooperative agencies to ignore the deadline and simply stall, hoping the requestor will get discouraged and go away

Another amendment would broaden the criteria for waiving the costs of searching for and copying documents. A common dis couraging tactic is for an agency to demand absurdly high search and copy fees. Whoever is seeking the documents can then sue under FOIA to get them and be reimbursed for attorneys' fees if the judge grants the request. The law would be changed to end the punitive bureaucratic tactic of caving on the eve of the court date and then denying attorneys' fees on the technicality that the judge never ruled.

Other provisions would seek to ensure that Homeland Security's exemption is not abused and establish a federal FOIA ombudsman to monitor government compliance with the act.

The Freedom of Information Act reinforces an important American principle: that the vast amount of information compiled by the government ultimately belongs to the people.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury









OPINION

A really bad guy, but still a U.S. citizen

federal court in South Carolina ruled last week that Brook-lyn-born Jose Padilla, reputed al-Oaida homber-in-training, cannot indefinitely be jailed with-

The rulina

muts the

White House

on notice

that courts

do not

necessarilu

agree that

executive

authority is

limitless.

even in time

of war.

out charges, notwithstanding more than ample evidence of his intent to wreak havoc on American soil and notwithstanding whatever useful war-on-terror intelligence his military in quisitors may yet pry out of

"The president has no power, neither express nor implied, neither constitutional nor statutory, to hold petitioner as an enemy combatant," the judge ruled. In other words, charge Padilla or release him

Solid argument. It is persuasively the case that Padilla is a very bad actor and that we are all much the safer for his having been be hind bars for the past three years - but the man is still a U.S. citizen, entitled to constitutional protections.

He cannot just be tossed into a cell for as long as authorities desire.

The rule of law simply requires that Pa-

dilla must be charged. With something. With anything In real terms of course the district

court's ruling means little to Padilla. The Justice Department will appeal again and again, we expect - and this is a

case that will almost certainly wend its way to the Supreme Court, not neces sarily quickly: In real terms, Padilla will be neither charged nor released anytime soon

But the ruling does put the White House on notice that courts do not necessarily agree that executive authority is limitless, even in time of war

Ultimately, this will be a matter for Congress to wrestle into practical manageability.

Meanwhile, things would become much less immediately complex if only Padilla's captors might find one formal allegation or another to stick on him. We are reminded of Roar-

Twenties Chicago crimelord Al Capone, who was somehow, so to speak, - until the feds took him down on marginal income tax technicali-



Al thought that was a real dirty trick. But off he went to prison regardless. One way

And a cell seems the right place for Jose Padilla to be as well, on the basis of what we know of him so far a self-admitted al-Qaida soldier, a self-admitted associate of now-imprisoned terror chieftain Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a man Justice says

was plotting to blow up apartment buildings and detonate radioactive dirty bombs, a man Justice says already has given up information that remains highly classified and cannot vet be talked about. Prison's the place for him.

TORTURED

Keen him there Just charge him With something. Anything. That's the law.

Telephone a roulette wheel for Marine recruiters

BY SUSAN REIMER The Baltimore Sun

Marine Corps fell slightly short of its recruiting goals in January and again in February. the first time that has happened in nearly a decade. But it was not for want of trying, because the phone was ringing in my house. I got two calls from Marine re-

cruiters in January, and they went something like this.

"Evening, ma'am. Is Jessica available?

"No, I am sorry, she's not. Can I take a message

I wasn't surprised by the call for my college-student daughter.

People are still calling her to baby-sit, and she's been gone since August. "This is Marine Staff Sgt. Some-

thingorother from the Marine recruiting office," he said. "Could you arrange for me to speak to "Oh." I said, slightly startled,

"Jessie is in college."

I punctuated my response with a nervous little laugh, and I thought that would kind of settle things

But Staff Sgt. Somethingorother only paused briefly before continuing

"Oh. How is that going?"

I didn't think he wanted to hear about the time her laundry disappeared from the dryer and she had to call campus police. I didn't think he wanted to hear about how her lacrosse team had to get up at dawn on a Sunday morning to clean the bleachers in the foot ball stadium, so I just said,

"Fine It suddenly occurred to me that he was hoping Jessie was finding college a terrible disappointment

and was on her way home to enlist in the Marines

"I am sorry," I said, again laughing nervously. "Have you met Jessie?

"No, Ma'am," he said.

Well, before this goes any further, you should know that Jessie would never consider an occupation that required her to wear the same outfit every day, let alone an outfit of someone else's choosing."

"Ma'am?" he said

"Never mind," I said. "Thank you for calling. Good luck with your recruiting

The next night, the phone rang

"Evening ma'am. Is Joseph available?

Oh, no, I thought. Here we go

"No, he is not. Can I take a message

"Ma'am, this is Marine Staff Sgt. Reallyflatstomach of the Marine recruiting office Could you

arrange for me to speak to him? Exasperated, I said, "Don't you people in the armed services talk to each other? Joseph is at the

Naval Academy I thought that would settle things, but the Marine recruiter only paused before saying, "Oh.

How is that going

I didn't think he wanted to hear me say that it depended on your point of view. If you wanted your son to be a military officer and go to war, you could say that things are going well.

However, if you wanted your son to graduate from an Ivv League school and take up the much less hazardous life of, say, a stockbroker, then, no, things are

not going according to plan. But all I said was, "Fine,"

Then I added, "You are likely to see Joe before I do. Tell him his mother says, 'Hi.

Things must have been getting desperate at the Marine recruiting office because it called my friend Betsy about her son, Jeff, a high school senior.

God bless Jeff, but if the enemy offered him dinner at a Chinese restaurant or at a rib joint, it would be all over for our country.

Jeff is a wrestler and he is usu-

ally cutting weight. Food comes to have special meaning for wres-

Anyway, Jeff came home from school and told his mother that a Marine recruiter had visited his class and because nobody else had raised their hands when he asked for individual meetings with the students. Jeff had raised

"I felt bad for him." Jeff told his mother, his voice rising defensively. That's another reason why we don't want Jeff defending our borders. He feels sorry for every-

Jeff didn't have to do much talking to persuade his mother to take the call from the Marine recruit-

"Over my dead body," she said into the phone. The recruiter didn't even get the chance to ask, 'So how is that going?

Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY IN OTHER NEWS, IF HED PLEASE ENDORSE THE KERRY CAMP IS REPORTED to GEORGE BUSH BE CLOSE HE WAY HE DID to ASKING HOWARD FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE

PAGE 18 STARS AND S

5 condors released

AZ VERMILLION CLIFFS NATIONAL MONUMENT — Five Cali-fornia condor fledglings hopped from a release pen in northern Arizona and tested the air of freedom with their huge wings The birds are the lat-

est release of the endangered species in the Vermillion Cliffs National Monument, just south of the Utah state line. The re-

lease adds to the wild population of the bird that two decades ago was on the verge of extinction

Victims hiding addresses

RI PROVIDENCE — Secretary of State Matthew A. Brown wants to allow people deemed to be victims of domestic violence or hate crimes to hide their address from the public.

People would be able to shield their addresses in numerous state and local records including voting lists, business ownership papers, driver's licenses, property deeds, civil and criminal court files and professional licenses.

The only requirement of people seeking to hide their addresses would be to make a sworn statement to Brown's office that they are victims

High-tech license

W CHARLESTON — The state Division of Motor Vehicles is rolling out a high-tech driver's license later this year in an attempt to reduce fraud

The new license will include fingerprint images, face-recognition technology and other security features

Commissioner Doug Stump says all 21 DMV regional offices should have the new technology by Octo-

Rocket disappoints

AK ANCHORAGE — A rocket launched for aurora research from Poker Flat Research Range malfunctioned and crashed north of Fairbanks.

Wreckage from the rocket was spotted in the rocket range's impact zone in the White Mountains. Range manager Greg Walker would not give a specific location for the wreckage. Under normal conditions, the payload would have flown for 40 minutes, peaked above the Arctic Ocean coastline and fallen on the polar ice cap, Walker said. The 70-foot, 2-inch four-stage

Black Brant XII rocket reached an altitude of about 18 miles high and flew for five minutes before crash-

High-tech trash can

NEW YORK — The city is testing a high-tech trash can that uses solar power to sense when it is full and then automatical. ly compact the garbage inside.

The BigBelly can's tryout began Feb. 14 in Chinatown and then was moved to Tribeca on Feb. 28, city sanitation department spokeswoman Taryn Duckett said.

Duckett said it's too early to tell whether it functions as advertised. The city decided to try out BigBelly because manufacturer Westborough, Mass.-based Power Co. Inc. offered it. Seahorse



The healthy infant was turned in by a parent at an inspecified hospital in the Merrimack Valley, an official said. The baby was later discharged from the hospital and placed in a foster home.

Monteiro said no other information would be released because of privacy concerns. But she said the baby was the first surrendered since Oct. 29, when Massachusetts became the 47th state to allow parents to leave unwanted newborns at certain locations without legal ramifications.

Sprucing up rest areas

VA RICHMOND — Virginia lawmakers have earmarked \$20 million in funding to help spruce up or replace aging highway stops before Jamestown's 400th anniversary brings crowds of tourists to the state.

'We had to do something. Sen. Charles R. Hawkins, R-Pittsylvania and a member of the Senate Finance Committee. "It just got to the point of being a disgrace. If you plan to invite people to your home, you have to give them a place to stop and rest

For more than five years, people have complained about the condition of many of Virginia's 41 rest areas and welcome centers.

Lost Alamo flag

DALLAS - The only flag DALLAS — 110 cm, ... known to have survived the Battle of the Alamo has been found on display at a museum in Mexico, more than a decade after Mexican officials said they had lost it, a newspaper has reported.

Several flags reportedly flew at the Alamo during the March 1836 battle between a small band of Texas fighters and a Mexican army 10 times their number. All except one flag was destroyed.

More than a decade ago, Texas officials stepped up efforts to get the flag back, but the Mexicans said they had lost it.

A reporter from The Dallas Morning News recently found the flag at Mexico's National History Museum

It now rests in a glass case along-19th-century rifles. The once-blue rectangle of silk has faded to dirty white, but the gold fringe is intact and an eagle still spreads over the words "God & Lib.

Goat meat-cocaine trade

PA MOUNT PLEASANT — Four men stole, killed and butchered a goat so they could trade its meat for crack cocaine, police said

Authorities charged the four men with theft, receiving stolen property, cruelty to animals and criminal conspiracy for the Dec. 24 incident in Bullskin Township. about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

James Walter Albright, 37 dragged the 4-year-old pygmy goat from its pen with a rope and tied the animal to a shrub, where he and Charles W. Smith Jr., 20, killed the animal by beating its head with a hammer or a steel pipe, police said.



Pretty in pink

Two-year-old Haley Ho catches he umbrella in Palo Alto, Calif.



A rather round and robust robin sits Waiting for spring in the afternoon sun looking for berries in the snow in Lancaster, Pa. The sight of robins has been leading some locals to hope for an early arrival of spring-like weather.



Myisha Heinen is pushed by her Just a little push friends Haley Haines left, and Alena Burnstein as the 9-year-old girls play on a swing in Prairie Village, Kan.

ated discount prices from participating pharmacies Baby left at hospital

to those who signed up.

more are eligible

MA BOSTON — A newborn girl was surrendered in

AMERICAN

ROUNDUP

MN ST. PAUL — Call it na-ture's nasty trick.

This winter, common redpolls -

small red-capped finches that

flock at feeders — have swarmed

into Minnesota from Canada, delighting birdwatchers.

birds have been dropping dead

near feeders all over the state, vic-

People are being urged to re-

move finch feeders, clean them

with a mild bleach or vinegar solu-

tion and not replace them for a

while to force the birds to forage

more widely, lessening the spread

seniors save money on prescrip-

tion drugs has begun mailing cards

Program officials say thousands

The card allows seniors to pur-

chase prescription drugs at negoti-

designed to help Oregon's

Drug discount cards OR SALEM — A new program

tims of salmonella

of the disease.

But in the past three weeks,

Finches dropping dead



Mercedes Bryant, 4, lights a candle for her missing cousin, Jessica Lunsford, during a candlelight vigil held in Morrow. Ohio, at the home of Angela Bryant, Lunsford's mother.



A couple on a three-wheeled motorcycle cruise on Main Street in Daytona Cruising Daytona Beach, Fla. Bike Week 2005 is expected to draw half a million bikers to the ocean side city famous for its white sandy beaches.



Fans with faces painted with the Showing their spirit United States flag cheer during a Davis Cup tennis match at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.



Harold Schmidt, dressed as "Enola Gay," dances down the course during a drag ski race-costume contest, part of "Ascent: the Winter Party at Lake Tahoe," in

Colorful skier

South Lake Tahoe, Calif.



Chris Stafford, of Canton, Ohio, sings "The Star-Spangled National anthem auditions Banner" inside an empty Jacobs Field as he, and others. audition for the chance to sing at a Cleveland Indians home game sometime this summer. Theauditions were just one of a number of activities held at the stadium as part of an open house.

Flushed out by cops

AR FORT SMITH — Getting tanked has a whole new meaning for a woman on the lam. Brandy Shante Moss, 19, decided that police wanting to talk to her about a domestic dispute complaint would never think to look in a sentic tank

They did. Officer Danny Baker found

Moss in her hideout and stepped on the tank to arrest her. The tank collapsed on Moss, in-

iuring her badly enough that she had to go to the hospital.

Baker and his colleagues responding to the call said they saw a man and a woman run from a house to an abandoned one nearby. The woman, Moss, found the septic tank behind the abandoned After being treated, Moss was

booked into the Sebastian County Jail on suspicion of fleeing apprehension and two counts of third-de gree domestic battery. She also was held on warrants for contempt and failure to comply with a court order

Beach takes pounding

NJ VENTNOR — A beach rebuilt last year as part of a \$24 million shore protection nmiect has taken a nounding from recent storms. Waves have carved out 4-foot cliffs of sand from a barrier dune and damaged walkways and fences. Officials estimate that the storms removed about 300,000 cubic vards of sand, or a fifth of the total used in Ventnor.

Adoption scam

AL WETUMPKA Cherish Tarbox and her mother, Jenny Lodge, pleaded guilty to using Tarbox's infant twins as bait in an adoption scam. Police said Tarbox, 20, and Lodge, 42, scammed five prospective adoptive couples out of more than \$17,000 by offering to allow them to adopt the twin boys if they paid for medical and other expenses.

Janitor leaves gifts

AMO — A janitor has left \$80,000 to the school where he worked almost 15 years. Jack Eggers, who died of a brain tumor in January 2004 at age 69, left more than \$200,000 to several causes, including Mill Creek West Elementary School. He retired in November 2003 and occasionally would visit to read to the children.

Husband charged

MD ELKTON — A husband was charged with his wife's death after police found her 81-pound body on a soiled mattress inside a bedroom where she had allegedly been confined for years.

John Joseph Dougherty, 52, had allegedly kept his wife, Mary Elizabeth Kilrain, 46, locked in a bedroom since she had an aneurysm in 1999 and began to constantly yell at her children, charging documents said.

He also allegedly told his daughters - ages 10, 13 and 16 - to lock their mother in the bedroom after they visited her, the court papers said

Dougherty called police after one of his daughters tried to give Kilrain water and found her dead, police said.

Officers arriving at the home in Elkton, about 50 miles northeast of Baltimore, found her lying on a mattress surrounded by moldy food, excrement and a broken cane likely used to bang against the locked door, court papers said.

Dougherty was charged with involuntary manslaughter and abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult family member. He was ordered held at the county jail on \$350,000 bond, police said.

"It was one of the worst scenes I have ever seen in my 27 years of law enforcement," said Detective Sgt. Bernard Chiominto, of the Cecil County sheriff's office. The daughters were placed in a

foster home, Chiominto said.

Rare sheep sighting

WI ELKHORN — Game war-den Tim Price had to see it to believe it when a woman reported she saw a wild bighorn sheep next to the interstate in Walworth County.

"I thought she was a nut," Price said. "Ironically enough, that very next day I was on Peck Station Road and I thought, "That's a bighorn ram.

The sheep has been seen numerous times since November roaming in Walworth County. It may be a wild bighorn or it may be another species of sheep. People have described it as brown and shappy. with curled horns and a white butt. Norma Botma and her friend Lauri Paddock were driving to Milwaukee from Elkhorn on Dec. 16 when Paddock saw the animal

near Walworth County Trunk D "I said, 'It looks like a bighorn sheep," Botma recalled. "When we came home and told Lauri's husband, he thought we both had been drinking."

and Interstate 43.

Snow record approaches

CO DENVER — Colorado is heading into the traditionally snowiest period of the year with its best snowpack since 1997. Recently, the statewide snowpack was at 109 percent of the 30-year average, the best for this time of year since the five-year drought began. Only the northwestern corner of the state remains on the national drought man. Ten states rely on the Colorado snowpack for water.

Budgetary success

MONTPELIER — School districts enjoyed moderate success at winning approval of their annual hudgets at town meetings, according to Jeffrey Francis. executive director of the Vermont Superintendents Association. Of 246 budgets that have been decided. 226 passed. 19 failed and consideration of one other was deferred. Another six budgets were reduced before they passed.

Pastor voted out

MARION — A pastor who insisted his first firing was invalid has again been voted out by members of the church. However, his attorney is questioning whether a handful of people who didn't vote could have changed the outcome.

Of 99 Grace Missionary Baptist Church members, 50 voted to remove the Rev. Ed McDowell, while 46 chose to retain him. Three members abstained.

Stories and photos from wire services

	AFRTS Television Schedule Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or ARV's Web site at http://mydn.dodmedia.osd.mil/							
	TUESDAY, MARCHE R, 2005							
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley	Movie ★★% "The Linda Mc-	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Hardball	PBA Bowling Baby Ruth Real	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Cartney Story" (2000) George Segal, Elizabeth Mitchell.	10 10 0 - 1 W. I	Headline News ESPNews	71 - 070 -111 -5 -1	Deal Classic. From Indianapo- lis. (Taped)	Sweet Dreams Best for Less	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI) Reading Rainbow (EI)	(:45) Mavie + + + "Mv	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey (:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	NBA Fastbreak	Stripped	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Cousin Vinny" (1992, Come-		Smallville "Covenant"	Nightline	Sports Center	E News	Smallville "Covenant"
11:30	Stanley	dy) Joe Pesci, Ralph Macchio. An inept lawyer tries to free his	(:17) General Hospital		-	•	The King of Queens	
12:00	Dora the Explorer The Wiggles	cousin from a Dixie jail.	Headline News Judge Judy	Movie ** "Martin and Lewis" (2002, Drama) Sean	Fox and Friends First	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced, (Taped)	That '70s Show Girlfriends	Movie ** "Martin and Lewis" (2002 Drama) Sean
12:30 13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie ** * "Working Girl"	Today Actor Greg Kinnear; To-	Hayes, Jeremy Northam.	American Morning	(-4	Charmed 'All Hell Breaks	Hayes, Jeremy Northam.
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	(1988) Melanie Griffith. An am- hitinus Staten Island secretary	day's Style; Today's Kitchen.	The Simpsons	1		Loose"	The Simpsons
14:00	Blue's Clues	moves up the ranks.		Pacific Report			Strong Medicine "Drugstore Cowgirl"	Pacific Report
14:30 15:00	Barney & Friends (EI) Funniest Home Videos	(:05) Movie * * * "Glengar-	I Spy	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		SportsCenter	Any Day Now "Nope"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
15:30	Growing Pains "Jealousy"	ry Glen Ross" (1992, Drama) Al Pacino, Jack Lemmon, Alec	Animaniacs	Late Show With David Letter-	1	NASCAR Nation	1	Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon "In the Pink"	Al Pacino, Jaox Lemmon, Alec Baldwin.	All Grown Up "Lucky 13"	man	FOX News		Third Watch "September 10th"	man
16:30 17:00	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2) Doug Doug's dad's old band.	The Entertainers	Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy!	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak SportsCenter	Law & Order "Whiplash"	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
17:00	The Wild Thornberrys	THE EINERGAMEIS	Headline News	Dennis Miller	T OX News	Sportscenter	Law & Order Wilplasii	Dennis Miller
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Behind the Scenes	ESPNews		FOX News	Boxing Friday Night Fights.	The Simpsons	
18:30	Rugrats "Grandpa's Teeth" The Proud Family (EI)	Entertainment Tonight Movie * * "Along Came a	AFN Evening News Smallville "Covenant"	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	DaySide With Linda Vester	(Taped)	Everybody Loves Raymond Star Trek: Enterprise "Dam-	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann
19:00 19:30	The Amanda Show	Spider" (2001) Morgan Free-	Smallville Covenant	Access Hollywood	DaySide With Linda Vester		age"	Access Hollywood
20:00	Everwood "East Meets West"	man. Alex Cross probes the kid- napping of a senator's daughter.	Movie ★★¼ "Martin and	Headline News	FOX News	MLB Baseball Texas Rangers	CSI: Miami "Just One Kiss"	Headline News
20:30	8		Lewis" (2002, Drama) Sean Hayes, Jeremy Northam.	Entertainment Studios.com	0	at San Francisco Giants. From SBC Park in San Francisco.	U	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Sister, Sister "The Audition" Sister, Sister	(8:56) Movie *** "The Ma- trix" (1999) Keanu Reeves. A	The Simpsons	The Hot List Headline News	Studio B With Shepard Smith	(Live)	Mark Twain (Part 3 of 4)	The Hot List Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show "Auction"	computer hacker learns his	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto		Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement	world is a computer simulation.	The Tonight Show With Jay				Seinfeld "The Pool Guy"	
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Bar Mitzvah"	Movie *** "Thunderheart" (1992, Drama) Val Kilmer.	Leno		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	
23:30	MILEVOIT	(1862, Dialia) val Killiel.	Late Show-Letterman	WEDNESDAY, MARCH !	2005	Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	
00:00	Doug "Doug's Brain Drain"	(11:00) Movie *** "Thun-	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power	derheart" (1992) Val Kilmer.	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News	1	O'Brien	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	(:13) Movie * * "Bad Girls" (1994, Western) Madeleine	College Basketball Mid-Conti- nent Tournament Final Teams	Blue's Clues "Words" (EI)	ABC World News Tonight	Women's College Basketball Big East Tournament Final	Star Trek: Enterprise "Dam- age"	Blue's Clues "Words" (EI)
1:30	Rugrats The Proud Family (EI)	Stowe. Circumstances force	TBA. From Tulsa, Okla. (Live)	Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News The NewsHour With Jim	Teams TBA. From the Hartford	CSI: Miami "Just One Kiss"	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil
2:30	The Amanda Show	four women to become outlaws.			Lehrer	Civic Center in Hartford, Conn.		
3:00	Everwood "East Meets West"	Movie * * "Along Came a Spider" (2001) Morgan Free-	College Basketball Sun Belt Tournament Final Teams	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	College Basketball Horizon League Tournament Final	Mark Twain (Part 3 of 4)	Oprah Winfrey
3:30 4:00	Sister, Sister "The Audition"	man. Alex Cross probes the kid-	TBA. From Denton, Texas.	NBC Nightly News	The Fox Report With Shepard	Teams TBA. (Live)	Friends	NBC Nightly News
4:30	Sister, Sister	napping of a senator's daughter.	(Live)	Judge Judy	Smith		Seinfeld "The Pool Guy"	Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(4:56) Movie *** "The Ma- trix" (1999) Keanu Reeves. A	ABC World News Tonight	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Sports Center	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	computer hacker learns his	ESPNews CBS Evening News	(:25) Guiding Light (:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	NBA Fastbreak	Caribbean Workout Body Shaping	(:25) Guiding Light (:13) General Hospital
6:00	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI)	world is a computer simulation.	NBC Nightly News	(.13) delierai riospiiai	Larry King Live	ESPNews	TIPical Mary Ellen	(.13) General Hospital
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	The Entertainers	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NASCAR Nation	The View	Sylvester & Tweety
7:30	Bob the Builder	Behind the Scenes	Bear in the Big Blue House Blue's Clues "Words" (EI)	SpongeBob SquarePants	BET Nightly News	Sports Center	Emeril Live	Buzz Lightyear of Star SpongeBob SquarePants
8:00 8:30	The Wiggles Dora the Explorer The beach.	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Batman Beyond "Heroes"	Tavis Smilev	Sportscenter	Emerii Live	Batman Beyond "Heroes"
9:00	Stanley	Movie "Miracle on the Moun-	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews		30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	tain: The Kincaid Family Story" (2000, Adventure) Patty Duke.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News ESPNews	71 - 070 - 111 - 5 - 1	Announced. (Taped)	Food 911 Sensible Chic	Headline News ESPNews
10:00	Arthur "The Blizzard." (EI) Reading Rainbow (EI)	(:45) Movie "Dangerous Li-	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor		Fashion File	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	aisons" (2003, Drama) Cather-		That '70s Show	Nightline	i	E! News Live	That '70s Show
11:30	Stanley "The Pond Couple"	ine Deneuve, Rupert Everett. A scheming seductress manipu-	(:17) General Hospital	Arrested Development	Nightly Business Report	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Arrested Development
12:00 12:30	Dora the Explorer The Wiggles	lates the lives of others.	Headline News Judge Judy	The Casino	Fox and Friends First	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	That '70s Show Girlfriends	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Hardin Family"
12:30	Bob the Builder	Movie ★★ "On Thin Ice"	Today Robin Williams; Ringling	The District "Hollow Spaces"	American Morning	Announced. (Taped)	Charmed "Charmed Again"	Lost "Raised by Another"
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	(2000, Cornedy) Nicholle Tom, Thomas Calahro, Alan Thicke	Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Cir- cus; Today's Kitchen.	·	_	1	(Part 1 of 2)	·
14:00	Blue's Clues Barney & Friends (EI)	(:43) Movie **** "The	cus, roddy's Nitrien.	Pacific Report The Tonight Show With Jav	1		Strong Medicine "Wednesday Night Fever"	Pacific Report The Tonight Show With Jav
14:30 15:00	Funniest Home Videos	Cider House Rules" (1999)	Sylvester & Tweety	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		SportsCenter	Any Day Now "It's a Good	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
15:30	Growing Pains	Tobey Maguire, Charlize Theron. A young man leaves	Buzz Lightyear of Star	Late Show With David Letter-	1	I	Thing I'm Not Black"	Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon "Stage Fight"	his orphanage home to find	SpongeBob SquarePants	man	FOX News	1	Third Watch "After Time"	man
16:30 17:00	Yu-Gi-Oh! Doug A wedding celebration.	himself. Inside the Actors Studio 'Charl-	Batman Beyond "Heroes" Jeopardy!	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "All My Children"	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
17:00	The Wild Thornberrys	ize Theron" Charlize Theron.	Headline News	Dennis Miller	1		clider / ii my clidden	Dennis Miller
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Coming Attractions	AFNews on Assignment		FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	The Simpsons	1
18:30	Rugrats Even Stevens	Entertainment Tonight Movie * "Exit Wounds"	AFN Evening News That '70s Show	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	DaySide With Linda Vester	ESPNews SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond American Idol	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann
19:00 19:30	Kenan & Kel	(2001, Action) Steven Seagal,	Arrested Development	Access Hollywood	Dayoude Willi Liliua vester	apor to Certiter	Amenda iuu	Access Hollywood
20:00	Gilmore Girls Lorelai and Emi-	DMX, Isaiah Washington.	Extreme Makeover: Home	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Big East Tour-	American Idol	Headline News
20:30	ly sneak out of the health spa.	(:43) Movie ** "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" (1998)	Edition "Hardin Family"	Entertainment Studios.com		nament First Round Teams TBA. From Madison Square Garden in	L	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Degrassi: Next Degrassi: Next	Angela Bassett, Taye Diggs. A	Lost "Raised by Another"	The Hot List Headline News	Studio B With Shepard Smith	New York. (Live)	National Geographic Explorer	The Hot List Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	middle-aged workaholic redis- covers her passionate side.	Headline News	Good Morning America	†	College Basketball Confer-	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show With Jay	1	Your World With Neil Cavuto	ence USA Tournament First Round Teams TBA. (Live)	Seinfeld "The Sponge"	1
23:00	Touched by an Angel "True Confessions"	Movie *** "Charlie's An- gels" (2000) Cameron Diaz.	Leno Late Show-Letterman	1	Lester Holt Live		Daily Show-Jon Stewart Blind Date	4
23:30	OWNERS STATE OF THE PARTY OF TH	geno (2000) Garileton Didz.	rate Show-retterman	l	I	Pardon the Interruption	DIIIIU Jale	1



FACES



a lot of ways, what feels so special about the nomination is that somebody thought beyond what it was." "Tambourine" is the follow-up to Merritt's critically acclaimed 2002 debut, "Bramble Rose," a slower, more introspective record that stuck to her roots and clear

ly defined boundaries. More down-tempo than upbeat for most of its 51 minutes, the CD was a warm introduction to Merritt's fragile trill Raves in tastemaker publications, from

the New Yorker to Rolling Stone, helped keep Merritt on the road for a year, but it was during that time that she began to feel constrained by the tenor of her first batch of songs

"Our live shows have always had a lot of energy," she said. "When we were touring with 'Bramble Rose,' I felt like what I want ed to do next was a show where every night I could come off stage feeling like I'd just left a part of myself (up there). I wanted to make something as sincere and genuine and from me, but I wanted to do it in a way

that was loud, more like church or a party. She's succeeded on the album and in her recent live shows. During a performance last month at the Troubadour in Los Angeles, backup singers and a quivering organ were perfect accompaniment to Merritt, who was as charismatic as a preacher. And some of her songs have such an uplift-

ing spiritual tone that they would be welcome at a revival meeting. Oozing Southern charm with her quick wit and casual banter, Merritt had an easier time than many in winning over the tra-

ditionally stoic L.A. crowd.

Here's an artist who clearly loves the stage and appreciates the rapt attention of her audience, but it took years before she felt comfortable in front of a crowd

Billing her for the first time as Tift Merritt, "Bramble Rose" was recorded with the same musicians she'd played with for six years.

But the singer wanted to take her sound to a new level with "Tambourine," and she did it with the help of producer George Drakoulias, who has worked with other rock/country hybrids, including the Black

Crowes and Tom Petty.

Musically, "Tambourine" leans heavily
on rock and soul, but lyrically it's pure country. Before pursuing music Merritt was an aspiring fiction writer, and it shows

in songs that could be novellas if they weren't delivered with a guitar.

All of her lyrics are complicated human dramas, most of them romantic. In stories that unfold on buses and in hotels, they explore love from all angles.

"I think it's really easy for all of us to preoccupy ourselves with easily available dra-mas that are less than the truth," Merritt explained. "I try to write about what's important, to say what I really mean. I don't have the kind of mind that can take everything in at once. I want to sit with something and think about it. The details are what make things passionate. You can't see them if you're too close.'

Cher sues music publisher

Singer and actress Cher is suing Warner/Chappell Music Inc. for breach of contract on claims that it failed to pay royalties estimated at more than \$250,000.

The lawsuit, filed last week in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleges that the music publisher has not paid song and performance royalties for the last four years.

The other plaintiffs include Chastity Bono, the daughter

of Cher and her late husband Sonny Bono, and Christy Bono, Bono's daughter from his first marriage

Other plaintiffs are Mary Bono-Baxley and her children Chianna and Cesare Bono. It was not immediately clear whether she is Rep. Mary Bono, R-Palm Springs, who married ex-minor league baseball player Glenn Baxley in 2001.

Singing duo Cher and Sonny Bono had reached written agreements in 1965 and 1966 for recording services with York Records and Atlantic Recording Corporation that required them to pay royalties and provide an accounting of

the payments, the suit said.

Oprah on Vanity Fair's best dressed list

Oprah Winfrey's La Perla sweats - and the rest of her

self-described "classic, fun and relaxed" look - has earned her a spot on the Vanity Fair best dressed list for a second year in a

"The key to elegance is not just rearing beautiful things but making

pola, Kate Moss, Queen Rania of Jor-dan and actress Sienna Miller. Miller says Edie Sedgwick is her fashion icon, and she picks Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison and fiance Jude Law as the most stylish men.

what you're wearing come alive," she tells the magazine for its April issue. Also on the list again are Sofia Cop

Anderson Cooper, musician Charlie Watts and director Sri Lankan musicians trying to raise funds

Law, who says he looks like a "messy schoolteacher," also made the list, along with Andre 3000, newscaster

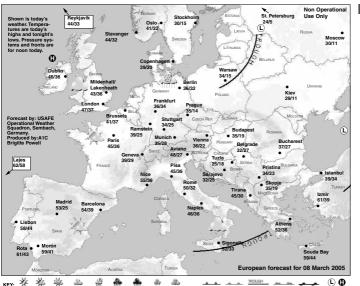
Sri Lankan musicians are trying to rally stars such as Elton John, Madonna and Ricky Martin to record an album to raise relief funds for countries hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami

Asoka Gunawardena, spokesman for United Artistes of Sri Lanka, said the group hopes to release "One Nation, One World, One Love" on March 26.

The Sri Lankan group has contacted Western music industry representatives to try rallying stars to contribute to the 18-song album, he said. Money from CD sales will be used to build schools in tsunami-ravaged countries and for a monument in Sri Lanka

From The Associated Presi





EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers Highs in the lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 40s . Wednesday lows in the mid to upper 30s.

upper 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: loudy with snow.

Highs in the mid 20s to lower 30s.

Wednesday lows in the upper teens to mid 20s.

ro min 20s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

Wednesday lows in the mid 30s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the mid 30s to lower 40s.

Wednesday lows in the lower 20s to lower 20s to lower 20s to lower 20s.

lower 30s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the 30s. Wednesday lows in the mid to upper 20s.

Hungary: Cloudy with rain and snow-showers. Highs in the mid 30s. Wednesday lows in the upper teens. Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s.
Wednesday lows in the upper 20s to upper 30s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy with iso-lated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy to mostly Cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s.

Wednesday lows in the upper teens to lower 20s.

Norway: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

lower 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Wednesday lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s, mid 20s inland.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy with rainshow ers and isolated thunderstorms. In the north, highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s with Wednesday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.In the south, highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s with Wednesday lows in the upper 30s to upper 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil



Sunrise (Ba Sunrise (Fr Sunset (Ba Sunset (Fra	ankfurt) ahdad)	Today 6:23 A.M. 6:55 A.M. 6:06 P.M. 6:20 P.M.	6:22 A.M. 6:53 A.M. 6:06 P.M. 6:21 P.M.
		Full moon	
New moon 10 Mar 05	First qtr. 17Mar 05	25 Mar 05	Last qtr. 02 Apr 05

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

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THE UNITED STATES TODAY

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MIDEAST





Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



Horoscope

Do a diagnostic report on your life. Abundant Pisces energy allows for a deeper understanding of what's going well and what still requires attention. The **Holiday Mathis** relationships that need healing loom large, asking to be addressed. We're working on many levels, but the most profound is the spiritual realm, where chang-

es can take place in the blink of an eve. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 8). This year, you

stand in what you believe. Loved ones crave this stronger side of you, and you may even need to draw new boundaries. Raises or other financial perks show up in the next four weeks. You'll make a lifestyle im provement before the spring is over. September could bring marriage Gemini and Aquarius are fabulous

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You may encounter some form of ageism or perpetrate this prejudice upon your own psyche. You're not too old to pursue your dream. Martha Graham danced professionally at 75 and choreographed through

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Attitude drives production - the more you produce, the better you feel. Your winning posture magically connects you to serendipitous opportunities that would not be available to someone of lesser enthusiasm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Working diligently has brought you results, so you'll continue. But there's no reason to be hard on yourself in the process. Turn nasty inner dialogue in a new direction, or it drags down your progress

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You may not be communicating as fully as you think you are. Ask others to parrot back your message to see if it's really getting through. Every person you deal with needs a different communication approach.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Achieve ment isn't easy, but it is simple. You tell yourself what to do, and then,

you do it. As long as you're judging yourself by your achievements lately, you may as well add something impressive to your list.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Press "pause" on that chaotic realm of your life - you can always get back to it later. In the meantime, return to basics. Talk to a friend. take the dog for a walk, or listen to music. The simplest things give you the most pleasure.

LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). Take the initiative. When you dare to lead, even if you are only leading yourself, you earn respect. You may be tempted to ask how you

can help, but you won't get answers Don't ask, just do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Opinionated people are all around

you, making you wonder how to weigh in. Write your manifesto. Research shows that those who have developed their own personal and unique beliefs live longer, more satisfying lives

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you are being neglected, it's

time to stand up and say so. Not being heard leads to frustration, hurt, anger and anxiety. Being heard leads to effectiveness, well being, loving exchanges and happiness

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Someone is trying to love you, and you are not allowing it. Why is that? Let go of past fears. Hanging on to them only increases the likeli hood of a repeat performance. Your connection with a Taurus is strong.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

It's difficult to share reality when you're just not getting where the other person is coming from. Though you are disconnected from the situation that means so much to your significant one, try hard to understand.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Life's puddles can be sidestepped if

you watch where you are going. But if you stare only at the ground, you'll never get safely to your destination. Divert your attention to something grand, whimsical or interesting.

Creators Syndicate

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT ANIMALS WHATS Hobbes was has has hos ho NET LEAVES SMELL and twins are supposed to This can't be I'm a boy I'll try look alike, act alike to help and you're happening!! you as and think alike! a girl! I thought we are much as were twins! ump Start humanly possible) dig THE CELL PHONE BILL CAME TODAY, JEREMY au?









Peanuts











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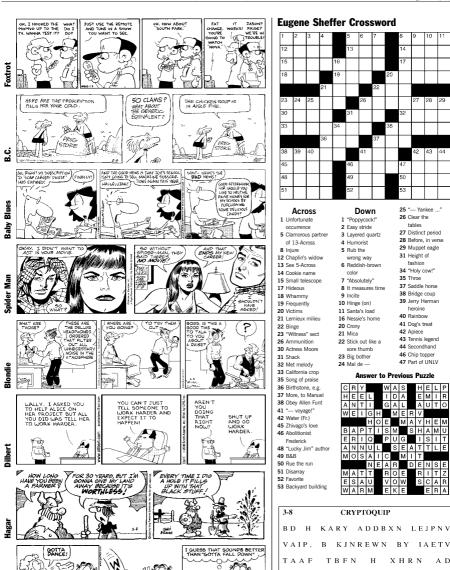








PAGE 24 · STARS AND STRIPES · Tuesday, March 8, 2005



JPM PANTS 3-6

LTHXFWHBT.

MIGHT IT BE CALLED A HUMBUG? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals O

INSECT

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING AN ISECT WAS SINGING WITH CLOSED LIPS.

Colon cancer testing important JUR

Dear Abby: Imagine if, by applying what we already know, we could save the majority of lives that are lost to the third-leading cause of cancer in men and women? That's no pie-in-the-sky dream. I'm talking about colon cancer.

Regular testing can help prevent this disease or detect it at its earliest, most treatable stage

This year, colon cancer will claim the lives of more than 56,000 Americans. That's more than 150 deaths a day, many of them preventable. The tests allow doctors to remove polyps before they can become cancer ous, and prevent colon cancer from happening These same tests can also detect early signs of the disease as effectively as mammography

detects breast cancer. Symptoms often don't appear until colon cancer has progressed, and no matter what a person's family history or how someone

feels, if you're 50 or older you're at risk for colon cancer.

There is also the perception that the test will be embarrass ing or painful. While some of the tests may be uncomfortable, colon cancer is far worse Bottom line: If you're 50 or

Dear Abby

older, now is the time to get tested for colon cancer.

- Stephen F. Sener. M.D., President, American Cancer Society

Dear Dr. Sener: I am pleased to help publicize this important message. The American Cancer Society offers a free kit to help you discuss colon can-

cer testing with your physician. To get one, call toll-free: (800) 227-2345.

Dear Abby: I am a

28-year-old, American-born Asian woman, whose tradition-bound, first-generation mother insists that I. or another person in our family, share a

portion of our meal with her even though she has already eaten and we have not. This is acceptable behavior in her home, but is it appropriate for her to continue this behavior in public? For example, my mother, my aunt my cousin's three children and husband and I went out to dinner at a steakhouse, and my mother insisted that I slice a portion of my steak and share it with my cousin, who had already started to eat her entree of pasta Mother becomes angry with me when I try to explain that this is not proper etiquette. What do you suggest I do?

- Frustrated Daughter in California

Dear Frustrated: You will spare yourself a lot of heartburn if you realize that you cannot change your mother. So, when you are at a restaurant with her. order a larger portion than normal and offer to share.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069, Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and

one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words.



THACLE

suggested by the above cartoon.

KNOWN TO LEAVE

WHEN TEENAGERS

HAVE THEIR

FRIENDS OVER

Now arrange the circled letters

to form the surprise answer, as

I'm taking Rex for a walk

(Answers tomorrow) Yesterday's Jumbles: HASTY BELIE STRONG FUTUR ened by the protesters - A STATE OF "UNREST"

Family Circus

© 2005 Bit Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Sy

www.familycircus.com "We'll be the good guys and you're the insurgents!"

Confront in-laws over burned stuff

Dear Annie: Four years ago, my husband and I moved back to his hometown so we could be closer to his parents, who are getting older

We also wanted our children to know their randparents better.
At the time, we had a lot of things in storage,

including photograph albums, baby clothes, and items that belonged to my mother and were nrecious to me. My in-laws have a large storage unit on their property and said we were welcome to use it.

My in-laws left town last week and asked us to keep an eye on their place. Yesterday, my husband and children returned from my in-laws' with a small vase and a Santa Claus that I recognized as mine. The items were blackened and charred. The kids said they had found them in Grandma and Grandpa's burn pile.

I thought our things were safe, but obviously my in-laws have been burning our belongings. I cried all day, wondering what

Annie's Mailbox

other precious items were destroyed. I don't understand how they could do such a horri-ble and heartless thing. I've tried to maintain a good relationship with my in-laws, ever though I know they don't like me.

My husband can hardly believe his parents would be so cruel, and he doesn't

know how to handle it. Sad Daughter-in-Law

Dear Daughter-in-Law: We are appalled by your in-laws' behavior and cannot think of any excuse good enough to justify such disregard.

First, you need to check the remaining boxes in the storage building and see what is missing Then, you and your husband should bring the charred Santa and vase to your in-laws' home when they return. Tell them where they were found, and ask them point-blank to explain themselves. We hope nothing else has been burned, and we trust you will remove the boxes

from your in-laws' property im mediately.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Buried in West Virginia, who said he recently moved to a perfectly lovely rural area, but one of the neighbors uses his yard as a dumping ground for all kinds of junk.

"Buried" found it an evesore This is typical of many people who move into such areas

Many new owners have paid very inflated prices for their "lovely, rural property," and expect their neighbors to submit to their demands. Local governments do not have the financial resources to enforce laws control-

ling viewscape problems.

— Local Upstate New York
Town Supervisor

Dear Supervisor: We heard from plenty of rural residents on this. Thank you for your letter. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Sync cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

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Andy Roddick reacts after losing a game to Croatia's Ivan Liubicic during their Davis Cup singles match on Sunday. Ljubicic won 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (11), 6-7 (7), 6-2 to send Croatia into the quarterfinals against Romania.

Croatia's Ljubicic tops Roddick, eliminates U.S.

The Associated Press

CARSON Calif - Even Andre Agassi couldn't lead the U.S. team to Davis Cup success

The Americans sent out an impressive group against Croatia. with Agassi back after five years to join Andy Roddick and doubles specialists Bob and Mike Bryan.

Ivan Liubicic proved too much for all of them, almost single-handedly leading his country to a 3-2 opening-round victory Sunday

The 25-year-old Liubicic ran his record against the United States to 6-0 with two singles victories to bookend a doubles tri-

He also won three times two ears ago when Croatia knocked the Americans out in the first round.

U.S. captain Patrick McEnroe obviously was disappointed with - and very impressed by the loss -Ljubicic's performance

To play that well, to beat Agassi, the Bryans and Roddick back to back, it's an impressive perfor-mance." McEnroe said.

Ljubicic finished off his iron man stint with a victory over Roddick, propelling Croatia into the quarterfinals against Romania

On a roll that has carried him to four tour finals this year, Ljubicic was proud to win for his country.
"I think all around the world,

this is going to be big news because to beat Andre, Bryans and Roddick in three days, I think it's a great effort," he said.

I was thinking if I could just win one singles, just to keep up the momentum and just keep the confidence up. But I did it all the way, so it is just amazing.

The United States has won the Cup 31 times, but not for a decade. The drought is the Americans' longest in 68 years. Liubicic outlasted Roddick 4-6.

Davis Cup

6-3, 7-6 (11), 6-7 (7), 6-2 in a match that featured a highlight reel's worth of spectacular shots by both players and lasted 3 hours, 58 minutes. "There's no worse feeling than

losing a match in Davis Cup in our sport, especially when your teammates are counting on you. Roddick said. "There are so many people that you're playing for and that you feel like you've let down Since Croatia clinched the

round with one singles remaining, Bob Bryan filled in for Agassi and took a 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Roko Karanusic, who replaced Mario Ancic. Roddick had beaten Ancic in

sets in their opening-day match Liubicic began the round with a

straight-set victory over Agassi, then teamed with Ancic to hand Bob Bryan and his twin brother. Mike, their first Davis Cup loss in six matches.

Both Roddick and Ljubicic played extremely well in their

match, with Roddick rocketing one serve that hit 152 mph. But Liphicic was able to nunch back some of the powerful first serves, and he pounced on Roddick's 73 second serves to win 41 points.

After winning the fourth-set tiebreaker, Roddick immediately lost his serve to start the fifth set Liubicic broke through again in the fifth game to take control.

The Croatian, no slouch himself serving, matched Roddick's total of 19 aces.

When Ljubicic finished off Roddick with a service winner, the Croatian team locked arms and gleefully broke into a dance on

France 3. Sweden 2: At Stras-

Mathieu blew three match points before finally outlasting gritty Th-omas Johansson 6-1, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-4 of Sweden to clinch the victory for France.

Sweden tied the match earlier in the day when Joachim Johansson rallied from a set down to beat Sebastien Grosjean 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1. France moves on to play Russia in the quarterfinals

Russia 4, Chile 1: At Moscow, Australian Open champion Marat Safin beat Fernando Gonzalez of Chile 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 1-6, 6-7 (3), 6.4 to send Russia into the quarterfinals. Nikolay Davydenko also beat Paul Capdeville 6-2, 6-1.

Romania 3, Belarus 2: At Brasov, Romania, Victor Hanescu beat Vladimir Voltchkov 7-6 (2). 6-4. 7-6 (6) to put Romania into the quarterfinals. Earlier in the day, top Romanian player Andrei Pavel defeated Max Mirnyi 6-1, 7-6 (0), 4-6, 6-3

Argentina 5, Czech Republic 0: At Buenos Aires, Argentina, Agustin Calleri and Guillermo Coria easily won to help Argentina sweep the Czech Republic. Argentina will face Australia in Sydney in the quarterfinals July 15-17 Australia 5, Austria 0: At Syd-

ney, Australia, Todd Woodbridge and Chris Guccione both won singles matches to complete a sweep for the home team

Netherlands 3, Switzerland 2: At Fribourg, Switzerland, Sjeng Schalken defeated Stanislas Wawrinka 1-6, 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 9-7 to move the Netherlands into the quarterfinals

The Dutch will meet Slovakia in the next round.

Slovakia 4, Spain 1: At Brat-islava, Slovakia, Fernando Verdasco beat Kamil Capkovic 6-2, 6-2 to earn a point for defending champion Spain, which was eliminated the previous day by Slova-

-15 -15 -14

-12 -12 -12

-12 -12

-12 -12 -11

-10 -10 -10

70-67-69-72-278 68-72-70-69-279 71-70-68-70-279 73-67-69-70-279 -10 -9 -9

64-71-76-70 - 281 68-71-72-70 - 281 70-69-71-71 - 281

AFN TV & Radio

Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.—College basketball: West Coast Conference championship

ame. AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Bowling: PBA Baby Ruth (010).

AFN-Sports, noon—NBA: Teams TBD (dld),
AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—Boxing: Friday Night
Fights, Ricardo Juarez (22-0-0, 15 KOS) vs.
Juan Carlos Ramirez (34-7-0, 14 KOS), super uan Carios kamirez (34-) 6, 24-) eatherweights (dld). AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—Baseball: Spring train nn Taxas vs. San Francisco.

Wednesday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball Mid-Continent Conference championship AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—College basketball:

gante. AFN-Radio, 1:30 a.m.-NBA: Orlando at Cleveland.

AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.—College basketball:
Sun Belt Conference championship game.

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—College basketball: Horizon League championship game.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Teams TBD (dld).

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—NBA: Teams TBD (dld).

(did).

AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.—Outdoors: Babe
Winkelman's "Good Fishing" (did).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—College basketball:
Big East tournament game.

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.—College basketball:
Conference USA tournament game.

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.netfor more information.

Baseball

Spring training glance

AMERICAN LEAGUE Tampa Bay Texas

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.400 .333 .250 .000 .000

.000 .000

Texas (Cleveland Toronto Baltimore Los Angeles Minnesota Chicago Kansas City New York Seattle Oakland NATIONAL LEAGUE Chicago Washingto St. Louis

.750 New York San Franc Cincinnat Colorado .600 .600 .500 San Diego Dittsburgh .500 .333 .250 .200 .200 .000 the

standings' games against non-major league teams 00 rd.

Mondy's games
Toronto 6, Minnesola 5
Toronto 6, Minnesola 6
Toronto 6, Minnesola 6
Toronto 6, Minnesola 7
Toronto 7
Toron

L.A. Dodgers (ss) vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla. Cincinnati (ss) vs. Pittsburgh (ss) at

Cincinnatu (ss) vs. PittsDurgii (ss) est Bradenton, Fia. Atlanta vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucle, Fia. Cleveland (ss) vs. New York Yankees (ss) at Tampa, Fia. Chicago Cubs vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz. Milwajukee vs. Seathe at Peripa, Ariz. Asinsa Sci ys. Colorado (ss) at Tucson, Akaisas City vs. Colorado (ss) at Tucson,

Ariz. San Francisco vs. Chicago White Sox at Ariz. ork Yankees (ss) vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla. L.A. Dodgers (ss) vs. Florida (ss) at Jupiter. Fla.

Pittsburgh (ss) vs. Cincinnati (ss) at Sara-sota, Fla.

Colorado (ss) vs. Arizona (ss) at Tucson, Ariz. Tuesday's games N.Y. Yankees vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee. Fla.

Tampa Bay vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla. Cleveland vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla. Florida vs. L.A. Dodoers at Vero Beach, Fla. Fíorida vs. L.A. Dodgers at Vero Beach, Fla. Minnesota (ss) vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla. Cincinnati vs. Pittsburgh at Braderiton, Fla. Washington vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla. Philadelphia vs. Toronto (ss) at Dunedin,

Filmateepinia vs. irrotino (ss) at Duneum, Toronto (ss) vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort Myers, Fla. Baltimore vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucle, Fla. Texas vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz. San Diego vs. Milwaudee (ss) at Phoenix Chicago White Sox vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz.

Milwaukee (ss) vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz. Oakland (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz.

Mesa, Ariz.

Mesa, Ariz.

Seattle (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.

Seattle (ss) vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.

College basketball Sunday's men's scores

Florida 53, Kentucky 52 Florida St. 68, Virginia 63 North Carolina 75, Duke 73 South Carolina 76, Mississippi Wake Forest 55, N.C. State 53 MIDWEST

Missouri 72, Kansas 68 Northern St., S.D. 73, Winona St. 69 Ohio St. 65, Illinois 64 S. Indiana 79, N. Kentucky 49 FAR WEST

Sunday's women's scores

Boston U. 77, New Hampshire 67 Drexel 71, Old Dominion 68 Drexel 71, Old Dominion 68 MIDWEST N. Dakota St. 91, Grand Canyon 50 Washburn 63, Emporia St. 41

> Women's conference tournaments

antic Coast Conference Greensboro, N.C. Seminals Sunday North Carolina 78, Virginia 72 Duke 74, Maryland 44 Championship

Monday Mina vs. Duke Atlantic 10 Confer Washington Semifinals Sunday

Temple 64, Xa George Washi 61 on 63, Rich

Championship
Championship
Temple vs. George Monday ton
George Monday
George
Geor

vs. Connecticut Big Sky Conference Missoula, Mont. First Round Thursday Northern Arizona vs. Eastern Washington sacramento State vs. Idaho State

Eastern Washington vs. Idaho State Semifinals Friday Weber State vs. higher-seeded winner Montana vs. lower-seeded winner

Big South Confer First Round Tuesday at Liberty inthrop at Liberty
anierson Southern at Birmingham-Sou
astal Carolina at High Point
adford at North Carolina-Asheville
Big Ten Conference
Indianapolis
Semifinals
Sunday
innesota 66, Ohio State 63, OT

Minnesota 66, Onlo State 63, Of Michigan State 83, Penn State 76 Championship Monday Minnesota vs. Michigan State

s. Michigan State Big 12 Conferenc Kansas City, Mo. First Round Tuesday Missouri vs. Kansas Colorado vs. Iowa State Texas A&M vs. Oklahom Oklahoma State vs. Nebi

vs. Oklahoma tate vs. Nebraska nial Athletic Asso Fairfax, Va. First Round Wednesday non. vs. N.C.-Wi Villiam & Mary Quarterfinals . VCU-N.C.-Wilmi son vs. Towson vs. Hofstra/Wil minaton winner

owson fstra/William & Mary

TANK McNamara

Charlotte, N.C. Championship Sunday Texas Christian 60, Louisville 41 Christian 60, Louisville 41 Horizon League Dayton, Ohio Semifinals Sunday nsin-Green Bay 72, III.-Chicago 59 Wright State 77, Detroit 66 Champions

American Confer Cleveland Quarterfinals Wednesday I vs. Miami (Ohio Eastern Michigan

vs. Toledo Mid-Continent Conference Tulsa, Okla.

Sunday Oral Roberts 46, Chicago State 44 Oakland, Mich. 66, Southern Utah State 58 Semifinals

Monday s. Oral Rob tern Illinois vs. Oral Roberts souri-Kansas City vs. Oakland Richmond, Va. First Round

Florida A&M vs. Morgan State North Carolina A&T vs. S.C. State Tuesday

Norfolk State vs. Bethune-Cookman Quarterfinals Wednesday

Hampton vs. midgle-seeded wint Hampton vs. midgle-seeded winner Hampton vs. midgle-seeded winner Howard vs. Mary Hampton vs. midgle-seeded winner Howard vs. Mary Hampton vs. Park Vs. Highest-seeded vs. Missour Valley Conference Normal, III. First Round Vs. Missouri State vs. Illinois State indiana State vs. Bradley Creighton vs. Drake Northern Nowa vs. Park

rn Iowa vs. Evansville Mountain West Conf Denver First Round

New Mexico vs. Sa Wyoming vs. UNLV Utah vs. Air Force Young vs.

ir Force
oung vs. Colorado State
Northeast Conference
Semifinals
Tuesday
at St. Francis, Pa.
rris at Sacred Heart
Pacific-10 Conference
San Jose, Calif.
Semifinals

Sunday Arizona State 54, Oregon 47 Stanford 73, Southern Cal 69 Ch Championship Monday vs. Stanford Patriot League Championship

Wednesday Holy Cross heastern Confe

hland Conference First Round Monday

Ils State at Louisiana-Monroe
en F. Austin at Texas-Arlingtor
ese State at Texas State

tte at Texas State
ttonio at Northwestern State
estern Athletic Conference
Birmingham, Ala.
First Round

First Round
Wednesday
Aldorn State vs. Prairie View AAM
Aldorn State vs. Prairie View AAM
Aldorn State vs. Prairie View AAM
Aldorn State vs. Jackson State
Aldorn State State
Aldorn State State
Aldorn State
Aldorn State
Belt Conference
Denton, Texas
Smidy
Arkansas State Ssanday
Arkansas State Ssanday
Monday
La-Lafqyette vs. Monday
La-Lafqyette vs. Mid. Tennessee St.
Wentucky vs. Mid. Tennessee St.

cky vs. Arkansas St. cky vs. Mid. Tennesse West Coast Confere Santa Clara, Calif Championship

Championsh Sunday Santa Clara 77, Gonzaga 66

Golf

Ford Championship at Doral FOR Championismp at DOTA
Sunday
At Doral Golf Resort & Spa, Blue Course
Mami
Mami
Million
Yardage 1,266; Par 72
Tiger Woods, \$990,000 65-70-63-66-264
Phil Mickelson, 5390,0006-66-66-02-255
Zidch Johnson, \$319,000 66-70-64-67-290
Pavid Toms, \$220,000 66-76-66-67-271

Monday een Bay vs. Wright State antic Athletic Conference Buffalo, N.Y. Champions Sunday eld 59 rican Confe

STARS AND STRIPES .

J. M. Olazabal, \$191,125 64-69-70-69-272 -16 Craig Parry, \$191,125 69-66-67-70-272 -16 Craig Parry, \$191,125 09-00-07-07-212 Retief Goosen, \$165,000 67-69-73-64-273 Jim Furyk, \$165,000 70-66-67-70-273 Angel Cabrera, \$143,000 68-69-70-67-274 Dudley Hart, \$143,000 70-67-68-69-274 Dudley Hart, \$143,000 10-67-66-69-27-5 Joey Snyder III, \$111,3756-69-70-70-275 Bart Bryant, \$111,375 69-70-67-69-275 Billy Andrade, \$111,375 66-66-72-71-275 S. Elkinoton, \$111,375 68-72-65-70-275 in Na, \$69,850 y Mayfair, \$69,850 faruyama, \$69,850 g Owen, \$69,850 70-68-69-69-276 67-67-72-70-276 69-67-70-70-276 70-68-68-70-276 Coceres, \$69,850 Casey, \$69,850 t Hend, \$69,850 Palmer, \$69,850 69-68-69-70-276 66-70-69-71-276 69-67-69-71-276 70-69-66-71-276

Ryan Palmer, \$69,850 Tim Clark, \$69,850 James Driscoll, \$69,850 Jeff Sluman, \$39,875 M. Calcavecchia, \$39,875 G9-71:71-68-277 M. Calcaveccini, \$39,875 17-08-71-07-217 Stewart Cink, \$39,875 70-65-73-69-217 Robert Allenby, \$39,875 69-68-70-70-277 Joe Oglivie, \$39,875 68-70-66-73-277 H. Frazar, \$39,875 65-71-68-73-277 70-71-72-65-278 68-70-71-69-278 69-69-69-71-278

Tom Gillis, \$31,130 Scott Hoch, \$31,130 John Senden, \$31,130 John Senden, \$31,130 Kenny Perry, \$31,130 Bo Van Pelt, \$31,130 Daniel Chopra, \$25,300 Todd Hamilton, \$25,300 Nick Price, \$25,300

F. Langham, \$25,300 68-67-71-73-279 Doug Barron, \$21,450 71-70-70-69-280 Justin Rose, \$21,450 73-67-67-73-280 Brian Bateman, \$21,450 68-72-67-73-280

Brian Davis, \$15,895 Andre Stolz, \$15,895 D.A. Points, \$15,895 Paul Azinger, \$15,895 Kovin Stadler, \$15,895 Andre Stolz, \$15,895 D.A. Points, \$15,895 Paul Azinger, \$15,895 Kevin Stadler, \$15,895 Danny Briggs, \$15,895 Chris DiMarco, \$15,895 Erik Compton, \$15,895 Mike Weir, \$12,826

Allen, \$12,826 (a. \$12,826 **Mastercard Classic**

> Sunday At Bosque Real Country Huixquilucan, Mexi Purse: \$1.2 million intry Club Yardage: 6,932; Par: 72 Final Round 70-71-68-209 -7

Annika Sorenstam, \$180,000 Karrie Webb, \$109,852 Hee-Won Han, \$70,669 Cristie Kerr, \$70,669 66-76-71 - 213 70-68-75 - 213 71-75-68 - 214 73-74-68 - 215 Lorena Ochoa, \$49,619 Paula Creamer, \$37,28 Michele Redman, \$37,289 Helen Alfredsson, \$28,268 Kim Saiki, \$28,268 Janice Moodie, \$21,243 73-70-72-215 -1 73-73-70-216 E 71-74-71-216 E 73-73-71-217 +1 Janice Mubure, \$44,... Leta Lindley, \$21,243 Riko Higashio, \$21,243 Son Young Moon, \$21,243 71-75-71-217 75-69-73-217 71-72-74-217 67-75-75-217

Young Moon, ing Jo. \$21,243 Young Jo, \$21,243 Laura Diaz, \$16,119 Soo-Yun Kang, \$16,119 V. Go.-Ackerman, \$16,119 Moira Dunn, \$16,119 74-72-72-218 +2 73-73-72-218 +2 74-71-73-218 +2 68-72-78-218 +2

Auto racing

Busch-Telcel Motorola 200

Sunday
At Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez
Mexico City
Lap length: 2,518 mile road course
(Start position in parentheses)
(3) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 80,

13, (15) Jason Keller, Ford, 80, \$45,548, 14, (19) Reed Sorenson, Dodge, 80, \$44,525 15, (34) Denny Hamlin, Chevrolet, 80 \$46,650.

46,650. 16. (27) Jon Wood, Ford, 80, \$41,075, 17. (30) Ryan Hemphill, Dodge, 80, \$46,150. 18. (10) Elliott Sadler, Ford, 80, \$38,225, 19. (28) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 80,

13. (20) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 838,400.
238,400.
20. (25) Jimmy Morales, Ford, 80, \$39,125.
21. (17) Tim Fedewa, Dodge, 80, \$42,200.
22. (25) David Stremme, Dodge, 80, \$42,200.
23. (22) Brent Sherman, Dodge, 80, \$42,50.
24. (27) Tyler Walker, Dodge, 80, \$41,57.
24. (27) Tyler Walker, Dodge, 80, \$41,57.

49,090. 26. (16) Chris Cook, Chevrolet, 80, \$37,975. 27. (37) Ruben Garcia Novoa, Chevrolet. 80

30. (41) Shawna Robinson, Chevrolet, 80, \$40,225. \$40,225. 31. (33) Jose Luis Ramirez, Dodge, 80, \$37,735. 32. (32) Randy LaJole, Chevrolet, 80, 7,700. 33. (14) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 80, \$37,665. 34. (7) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 77, \$40,515. T) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 77, \$40,515.
 (39) Mar Reyes, Ford, 75, \$39,600.
 (8) Carlos Contreras, Dodge, 73, handling, 337,565.
 (37, 18) Michel Jourdain Jr., Ford, 69, \$45,030.
 (30, 19) Goeters, Ford, 65, engine failurgh and pair failurgh \$37,320. \$41,870. (11) David Green, Ford, 63, \$42,305. (2) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 56, engine ire, \$37,335.

PAGE 29

Tovota Indv 300

Sunday At Homestead-Miami Speedway

Homestead-Miami Speedway Homestead, Fla. Lap length: 1.5 mile oval (Starting position in parentheses) 1. (11) Dan Wheldon, Dallara-Honda, \$10,400. 2. (8) Sam Hornish Jr., Dallara-Toyota, 200. \$83,650.

3. (14) Tony Kanaan, Dallara-Honda, 200, \$69,600. \$69,600. ..., ruanaan, Danara-Honda, 200, 4. (2) Vitor Meira, Panoz-Honda, 200. \$56,500. ... \$56,500.
5. (7) Helio Castroneves, Dallara-Toyota, 200, \$51,600.
6. (12) Darren Manning, Panoz-Toyota, 200, (12) Darren Manning, Panoz-Toyota, 200,
 \$45,600.
 (19) Patrick Carpentier, Dallara-Toyota,
 200, \$46,400. 8. (17) Alex Barron, Dallara-Luyuta, 13-3, \$43,300.
9. (18) A.J. Foyt IV, Dallara-Toyota, 196, \$43,300.
10. (21) Paul Dana, Dallara-Toyota, 192, \$43,000. Alex Barron, Dallara-Toyota, 199, TÖ. (21) Paul Dana, benistra-107000, 2542,000.
11. (1) Tomas Scheckter, Dallara-Chevrolet, 158, accident, \$50,800.
12. (15) Kosuke Matsuura, Panoz-Honda, 158, accident, \$39,600.
13. (6) Scott Sharp, Panoz-Honda, 158, accident, \$39,600.

dent, \$38,500. 14. (13) Bryan Herta, Dallara-Honda, 158, 15, (9) Danica Patrick, Panoz-Honda, 158, accident, 336,000.
16, (16) Scott Dixon, Panoz-Toyota, 158, accident, 334,000.
17, (10) Roger Yasııkawa D. cident, \$34,900. 17. (10) Roger Yasukawa, Dallara-Honda, 158, accident, \$33,600. 18. (20) Ed Carpenter, Dallara-Toyota, 154. accident, \$33,600. 19. (4) Buddy Rice, Panoz-Honda, 92, me-chanical, \$32,400. 20. (22) Ryan Briscoe, Panoz-Toyota, 61, ac-cident, \$31,300. Tomas Enge, Dallara-Chevrolet, 41, cal, \$31,300

nechanical, \$31,300.
22. (5) Dario Franchitti, Dallara-Honda, 12, nechanical, \$31,300.
Race Statistics
Winner's average speed: 142,033 mph.
Time of race 2:05:27,805.
Margin of victory: 3,6936 Seconds.
Cautions: 7 for 51 laps.

Cautions: 7 for 51 laps. Lead changes: 11 among 8 drivers. Lap leaders: Meira 1, Scheckter 2-14, Herta 15-19, Wheldon 20-34, Carpentier 35-38, Kanaan 39-46, Castroneves 47-50, Wheldon 51-65, Castroneves 66-70, Wheldon 71-148, Hornish Jr. 149-150, Wheldon 151-200

Deals Weekend transactions

RASFRALL American League TEXAS RANGERS—Assigned RHP Justin Th npson and RHP Ryan Wing to their minor

ague camp.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

ATLANTA HAWKS—Activated F Kevin Willfrom the injured list.

CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Placed F Kareem

tush on the injured list. Activated G Matt barroll from the injured list. MEMPHIS GRIZZUES Placed G Bonzi Vells on the injured list. Activated G Andre mmett from the injured list. ORLANDO MAGIC Placed G Doug Christle in the injured list. Activated C Mario Kasun om the injured list.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Placed F Matt Bares and F Michael Bradley on the injured list.

ctivated G Willie Green and F Josh Davis om the injured list.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Activated G Juan
xon from the injured list.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed OL ANIZUNA CARDINALS—Signed OE Univer-oss to a five-year contract. Signed QB Kurt /armer to a one-year contract. ATLANTA FALCONS—Re-signed PR Allen ossum to a four-year contract. Signed K ossum to a four-year contract. Signed K odd Peterson to a one-year contract. CLEVELAND BROWNS—Acquired QB Trent lifer from Seattle for a 2005 fourth-round draft pick. HOUSTON TEXANS—Named Mike London Internative line chach.

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed DE Vonnie Hollilay to a two-year contract.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Signed OL Jer-nane Mayberry to a four-year contract.

NEW YORK JETS—Traded WR Santana Moss to Washington for WR Laveranues SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Re-signed DL

HERE'S YOUR SECURITY BAPGE AND THERE'S YOUR CUBICLE. LOG INTO THE SYSTEM BY CLICKING THE DESKTOP ICON FOR THE NCAA FINAL-FOUR THE CEO IS CAN DEBIT MY PAYCHECK FOR THE BUY-IN? DOES THE CEO KNOW ABOUT THIS? BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BETTING POOL

Confident Smoltz makes transition back to starter

The Associated Press

John Smoltz threw the first pitch of a game instead of its last for the first time since 2001. Kevin Brown made his first pain-free start since signing with the Yankees before last season.

After three stellar years as Atlanta's closer, Smoltz made a triumphant return to the starting rotation and pitched two scoreless innings Sunday during the Braves' 8-7 victory over a New York Mets split squad in Kissimmee, Fla.

"Same Smoltzie," manager Bobby Cox said. "Just got to build up some endurance, that's all. He's going to fit right in with all the other starters."

the other starters."
The 1996 Cy Young winner allowed two soft singles and struck out one against a watered-down Mets lineup. It was an impressive spring debut, especially for a 37-year-old pitcher who was switched to the bullpen after three elbow operations — the Braves thought the move would prolong his career.

"It's funny how Randy Johnson's not old, Roger Clemens is not old, but a guy who's had four surgeries becomes old read quick," Smot said. "It's not an experiment. It's not something I haven't done before. But I understand the magnitude of what it could be."

At Tampa, Fla., Brown struggled through the first inning, allowing a run and three hits. Then he made some adjustments and followed with two scoreless innings in New York's 6-5 loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

"At least I felt like I was moving OK. I didn't feel like I was locked up. It wasn't an issue," Brown said.
Brown's health could be a

Brown's health could be a major factor for the Yankees. His back didn't feel right all of last year in going 10-6 with a 4.09 ERA, and the former All-Star missed most of September when he punched a wall and broke his left hand. Then he was shelled by the Boston Red Sox in Game 7 of the ALCS.

Spring training

He threw 53 pitches against the Reds, allowing four hits and two walks with four strikeouts.

"I loved what I saw," catcher Jorge Posada said.

Gary Sheffield, another injured Yankees star, made his debut.

Sheffield, recovering from an offseason operation on his left shoulder, went 2-for-3 with a pair of RBI singles. The Yankees started their regular lineup for the first time this year — an All-Star at every position.

"Just to know that you can play a baseball game without feeling the agony or the pain I had last year, I can't really explain it," Sheffield said. "I just know when I'm healthy what I can do."

In other games:

Red Sox 5, Phillies 4: At Fort Myers, Fla, Hanley Ramirez, Beston's top minor leaguer, started a triple play in the top of the sixth inning. Boston's new shortstop, Edgar Renteria, homered off Amanury Telemaco. Randy Wolf, limited to 23 starts last year by tendinitis in his list el blow, allowed three hits in two scoreless innings in his first start of spring training.

Cardinals 5, Marlins 1: At Jupieter, Fla., A.J. Burnett allowed four runs in two innings for Florida. Cardinals starter Chris Carpenter hit a two-run double and allowed two hits in three innings, striking out two. Jim Edmonds hit an RBI single for St. Louis.

Indians 2, Tigers 2 (10): At Winter Haven, Fla., C.C. Sabathia was scratched from his start because he strained a right abdominal nuscle while warming up. The left-hander was replaced by Cliff Lee, who allowed one hit and struck out two in two scoreless innings. Chris Shelton had three of the Tigers' seven hits.

Nationals (ss) 9, Astros 4: At Viera, Fla., Washington's Zach Day made his first start in seven months, hitting the game's first batter and allowing two solo homers. Brad Wilkerson homered for the second straight game for the Nationals.

Mets (ss) 14, Nationals (ss) 5: At Port St. Lucie, Victor Zambrano gave up three hits and two runs in 2 1-3 innings for New York. Jose Reyes finished 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base.

Nationals starter Mike Hinckley gave up six runs — five earned — and eight hits in two innings.

Devil Rays 5, Pirates 3: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Tampa Bay's Aubrey Huff had an RBI double, scored a run and caught a drive by Ty Wigginton against the left-field wall to preserve a tie. Ryan Vogelsong allowed three runs in three innings for Pittsburgh.

Giants 10, Cubs 1: At Scottsdale, Ariz., Omar Vizquel homered and singled for his first hits in a San Francisco uniform. Cubs starter Jimmy Anderson gave up five singles and three runs in the first inning.

Rangers 16, Rockies 1: At Tucson, Ariz., Texas prospect Adrian Gonzalez hit his second home run of spring training, this moving back to the starting rotation after a difficult year as Colorado's closer. He allowed three runs and three hits and threw a wild pitch in two innigs.

Orioles 4, Dodgers 2: Vero Beach, Fla., Scott Erickson, making a bid for the No. 5 spot in the Dodgers' rotation, pitched three innings of no-hit ball. Orioles starter Rodrigo Lopez also pitched three shutout innings in his first start of spring training.

Padres 9, Mariners 6 (10): At Peoria, Ariz., Xavier Nady and Jesse Garcia hit San Diego's first homers of the spring. Ichiro Suzuki and Randy Winn had RBI triples for Seattle.

Brewers 9, Royals 6: At Surprise, Ariz., Carlos Lee hit two home runs and drove in five runs for Milwaukee. Prince Fielder



Atlanta Braves' John Smoltz works against the New York Mets in a spring training game in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Sunday,

went 3-for-3 and drove in three runs. Rick Helling, who spent all of last season in the minors, pitched two shutout innings for the Brewers.

Kansas City's Zack Greinke allowed seven runs and seven hits — four for extra bases.

Angels 17, Athletics 4: At Phoenix, Casey Kotchman had a two-run double among his five RBIs. Bartolo Colon, making his first start of the spring for Los Angeles, struck out two in two innings. He gave up a run and two hits.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 5: At Dune-

din, Fla., 2004 Cy Young winner Johan Santana allowed a hit in two innings for Minnesota. The 2003 winner, Roy Halladay, gave up two runs and four hits for Toronto. The Twins' Todd Dunwoody had three hits, including a double and solo homer off Halladay.

Diamondbacks 8, White Sox 3: At Tucson, Ariz., Javier Vazquez threw three strong innings for Arizona, giving up one run and two

hits while striking out three.
Fellow newcomer Troy Glaus

drove in a pair of runs.

Jermaine Dye hit his first

homer as a member of the White Sox.

Selig: No changes to record book for suspected steroid use

The Associated Pres

PHOENIX — Steroids or not, baseball's record book won't be changing.

Commissioner Bud Selig said Sunday that no records will be taken away from

MLB briefs

roid use.

"That would be unfair to do that," said before a game between the Oakland Athletics and Los Angeles Angels. "In fairness to

players suspected of ste-

geis. "In fairness to those players, no one has been convicted of anything. And we can't turn history back.

"My job is to protect the integrity of the game. Each era, each decade has had situations where people said there were unfair advantages." Also Sunday, Rep. Tom Davis confirmed reports that the House Government Reform Committee is prepared to subpoena players and officials who turn down invitations to appear at a March 17 hearing on baseball's steroids policy.

Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro, Frank Thomas, Selig and union head Donald Fehr are among those who have been invited, along with baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson and San

Diego general manager Kevin Towers.
"We'll use the subpoena to get them
there if that's what we have to do," Davis,
the committee chairman, told CBS News.

Schmidt: Other factors boosting HRs FORT MYERS, Fla. — Mike Schmidt refused to blame steroids for the increase in home runs in the major leagues — or for his diminishing stature on the career homer list.

"Leave steroids out of it," Schmidt said Sunday. "There's a simple explanation why the home run totals are what they are, and the guys that are hitting would agree with me — it's park size, hard baseballs and hard bats."

Since the Hall of Fame third baseman retired in 1989 with the seventh-most home runs (548), he has been passed by four players — Barry Bonds (703), Mark McGwire (583), Sammy Sosa (574) and Rafael Palmeiro (551).

Schmidt estimates the smaller ballparks and the equipment help elite power hitters add 10-12 home runs more per season than those of his generation.

Indians' Miller out until June

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Pitcher Adam Miller, regarded as the Cleveland Indians' top prospect, will be sidelined until at least June with a strained right elbow.

An MRI exam showed a strained ligament in his throwing arm, and he won't be allowed to throw for six weeks. Another MRI then will be taken to determine if he can be cleared for a four-osix week throwing program, said John Farrell, the team's director of player development.

Farrell said Sunday surgery does not appear likely.

Miller, drafted in the first round in 2003, went a combined 10-6 at two levels of Class A ball in 2004. The 20-year-old right-hand-er's fastball was timed at 100 mph last summer with Kinston in the Carolina League chamnionship series.

NBA scoreboard

Fastern Conference

Atlantic Di	visio	n			
Boston Philadelphia New Jersey New York Toronto Southeast D	26 25 25	34 34 34	Pct .517 .492 .433 .424 .424	GB 	
Miami Washington Orlando Charlotte Atlanta Central Div	45 33 31 12 10	16 25 27 45 48	.738 .569 .534 .211 .172	10½ 12½ 31 33½	
Detroit Cleveland Chicago Indiana Milwaukee	36 31 29	22 27 27 27 30 33	.621 .534 .518 .492 .421	5 6 7½ 11½	

Western Conference

Southwest I	Divis	ion		
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans	W 46 38 34 33 13	13 20 25 25 46	.780 .655 .576 .569 .220	79 12 129 33
Northwest I	Divis	ion		
Seattle Denver Minnesota Portland Utah	20	17 29 30 35 39	.707 .508 .500 .386 .339	11½ 12 18½ 21½
Phoenix Sacramento L.A. Lakers L.A. Clippers Golden State	46 37 30 26 18	14 24 28 33 41	.767 .607 .517 .441 .305	9½ 15 19½ 27½
Sunday's	gan	nes		
Houston 90, Dallas 69 Sacramento 100, Detro	it 85			

San Antonio 101, Utah 94 Toronto 95, New Orleans 84 Miami 102, Cleveland 82 New York 115, Golden State 99 Phoenix 110, Seattle 99 L.A. Lakers 103, Indiana 94

nto at Dallas land at Denver nphis at L.A. Clippers Memphis at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's games
Orlando at Cleveland
Golden State at Philadelphia
Washington at New York
Atlanta at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Minnesota

Memphis at Sacramento
LA. Clippers at LA. Lakers
Wednesday's games
Orlando at Toronto
Atlanta at Boston
Golden State at Detroit
New Jersey at New Orleans
San Antonio at Phoenix
Chicago at Portland

Rockets 90, Mavericks 69

34-80 Jis-2-3 v.

18 1 J w 17-2 v.

18 1 J w 17-Fouls—Dallas 17, Houston 17. 7

Fouls—Dallas 17, Houston 17. 7

cals—Stackhouse, Houston Defensive

Second In Howard A 18 105 (17 987)

Kings 100, Pistons 85

Detroit 16 30 11 22— o: Sacramento 20 35 19 26—100 Three-Point Goals—Detroit 6-16 (Billups 3-7. Hunter 1-1, R.Wallace 1-3, Hamilton 1-4 3-7, Hunter 1-1, R.Wallace 1-3, Hamilton 1-4, Prince 0-1), Sacramento 6-11 (Stojakovic 2-3, Evans 2-4, House 1-1, Bibby 1-3), Fouled Out--MCDyess, Rebounds - Detroit 58 (B.Wal-lace 14), Sacramento 51 (Skinner 12), As-sists—Detroit 26 (Arroyo 7), Sacramento 25 (Bibby 11), Total Fouls-Detroit 21, Sacra-mento 21, A-17,317 (17,317).

Suns 110. Sonics 99

Knicks 115. Warriors 99

GOLDEN STATE — Dunleavy 5-9 0-0 11, Mur-y 6-16 9-12 23, Foyle 3-5 0-2 6, Fisher 2-10 8, Richardson 9-16 3-4 24, Davis 5-12 1-2 Pietrus 1-2 0-0 3, White 2-3 0-0 5, Biedrins 0-2 4, Tskitishvili 0-0 0-0 0, Cabarkapa 1-2 133 D* 4.7 skftlefwill 6-0 0-0 0. Cabarkapa 1-2 0-0 2. Trulas 6-78 15-49 8-9 12-12-19. T.Tho-nas 9-12 5-72 5. K.Thomas 3-5 0-0 6. Craw-ford 3-9 0-0 7. Marbury 9-16 6-5 26. Rose 3-4 2-2 8. Hardaway 0-2 0-0 0. Jackson 2-4 1-4 Ariza 2-3 0-2 4, Taylor 7-8 1-2 15, Sundov 0-1 0-01, Totals 4-7-6 16-2 11 27 37 27 22-98

Timberwolves 99, Celtics 97 MINNESOTA — Sprewell 3-9 0-0 6, Garnett 9-15 3-5 21, Thomas 6-8 0-0 12, Hudson 5-10 0-0 10, Hassell 6-10 0-0 12, Carter 1-4 2-2 4, -0 10, Massell 0-10 0-0 12, Carter 1-4 2-2 4, Madsen 1-2 1-1 3, Szczerbiak 7-13 6-7 20, Hoi-Jerg 4-7 0-0 11. Totals 42-78 12-15 99. BOSTON — Walker 7-9 1-2 16, Pierce 6-16

BÖSTON — Walker 7-9 1-2 16, Pierce 6-16 0-0 12, Lafrentz 4-7.3 -12, Davis 9-18 3-4 22, Payton 8-11 0-0 17, West 3-7 0-0 6, Blount 5-9 0-0 10, Jefferson 0-0 0-0 0, Banks 0-1 0-0 0, Reed 1-1 0-0 2, Totals 43-79 7-9 97. Minnesota 27 23 22 27-99 Boston 27 23 32 24-97 Minnesota Boston Three-Point Goals—Minn intrus-Point Goals-Minnesota 3-13 (Holberg 3-5, Sprewell ©-1, Carter ©-1, Mudson 0-7, 3-5, Sprewell ©-1, Carter ©-1, Mudson 0-7, 3-2, Sprewell ©-1, Sprewell ©-1, Davis 1-3, Pierce 0-1), Fouled Out-None Rebounds-Minnesota 42 (Garnett 13), Boston 3-6, (Blount 6), Assists-Minnesota 28 (Garnett 9), Boston 27 (Pierce 9), Total Fouls-Minnesota 15, Boston 14, A-17,242 (18,624).

Spurs 101, Jazz 94

Spins 101, Jazz 94

UTAH — Harpring 5-11, 2-312, Krillenko 6-14

1-16, Borchardt 3-8-0-6, McLeod 7-15, 3-4, 88

1-6 3-437, Okar 6-11, 2-7, 4, humphries 2-5

0-10-0, Totals 3-78, 1-24, 91, 1-2-2, Eslay

3-8 AM ANTONIO — Bower 1-15, 2-2, 18, Duncan 4-5, 4-12, Nesterovic 1-3, 0-2, Parker

2-6, 1-4, Massenburg 0-10, 0-10, 10-11, Brown

2-6, 0-1, 4, Massenburg 0-10, 0-10, 10-11, Brown

2-6, 0-1, 4, Massenburg 0-10, 0-10, 10-11, Brown

2-9, 9-10, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11, 10-11

20 30 22 22- 94 27 27 19 28-101 hree-Point Goals—Utah 6-13 (Kirilenko, Bell 2-2, McLeod 1-4, Okur 0-1, Snyder San Antonio 6-17 (Ginobili 3-4, Bower 6-1), San Antonio 6-17 (Ginobili 3-4, Bowen 2-5, Udrih 1-2, Horry 0-1, Barry 0-1, Parker 0-2, Brown 0-2), Fouled Out—Bell, Borchardt, Re-bounds—Utah 53 (Bell 8), San Antonio 37 (Gi-nobili 8). Assists—Utah 19 (McLeod 8), San Antonio 25 (Ginobili 7), Total Fouls—Utah San Antonio 23, Technicals—San Antonio Coach Popovich, Flagrant fouls—Bell.

Raptors 95. Hornets 84

TORONTO — Peterson 1-3 0-0 2, Bosh 12-19 10 33, Araujo 2-3 0-0 4, Alston 3-10 0-0 8, 17-20 95. NEW ORLEANS — Nailon 8-13 2-2 18, Vro-man 0-9 2-2 2, Brown 3-9 0-0 6, Dickau 2-8 2-2 7, Smith 2-10 4-4 9, Andersen 5-7 2-3 12, Jacob-

en 3-10 0-0 6, Claxton 4-6 1-2 9, Nachbar 5-12 3 15. Totals 32-84 16-18 84. Toronto 24 29 24 18—95 24 29 24 18-95 24 12 19 29-84

5 Tonde als 52-98 lb-18-85, 24 20 18—59 New Orleans Alberton and Three-Point Goals—Toronto-10-21 (Glorner News)—12 (Glorner News)—13 (Glorner News)—13 (Glorner News)—13 (Glorner News)—14 (Glorner News)—15 (Glorner News)—15 (Glorner News)—16 (Glor

Heat 102, Cavaliers 82

MIAMI — E.Jones 6-14 4-5 19, Haslem 9-13 0-0 18, O'Neal 5-12 3-5 13, D.Jones 2-5 0-0 6, Wade 7-22 4-6 18, Dolead 3-7 0-0 6, Anderson 3-5 0-0 6, Dooling 3-6 0-0 8, Laettner 3-4 1-2 7, Butler 0-1 0-0 0, Mourning 0-2 1-2 1, Wang 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 41-92 13-20 102. 0-0 0. Totals 31-92 13-26 f02. CLEVELAND - James 9-19 5-7 23. Traylor 2-5 2-2 6. Ingauskas 8-15 6-8 22. McInnis 2-9 6-2 4. New0ie 2-5-0-4. Gooden 4-9 3-4 11. Welsch 3-9-0-6. Snow 0-2 0-0. Diop 0-1 0-0 0, Harris 0-1 2-3 2. Pavlovic 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 3-20 16-26 52. 24 31 26 21-102 25 19 18 20- 82

Treverend Trever Min Fouls—Miami 18, Cleveland 19. Techni cals—O'Neal. A—20,562. (20,562).

Lakers 103, Pacers 94

Suns bomb misfiring Sonics; **Duncan injured in Spurs win**

In a matchup of the NBA's long-distance leaders, the Phoenix Suns consistently made their shots - and the Seattle SuperSonics just didn't.

Joe Johnson scored 30 points and went 5-for-5 from three-point range to lead Phoenix past Seattle 110-99 on Sunday night.

The Suns entered the game averaging more than nine three-pointers a contest, with the Sonics close behind. Phoenix visitors kept it up, finishing 10-for-17, but Seattle made just three of 27 shots from behind the

"We missed some shots that we ordinarily hit," Seattle guard An-

NBA roundup tonio Daniels said. "In the fourth quarter, we should have put more of an emphasis on attack-

ing the rim. Sometimes, we bailed them out by just launching it."

While Phoenix has a plethora of options on offense. Seattle depends heavily on the three - and shooting 11 percent didn't cut it

against the league's top offense. Ray Allen scored 27 points, but missed six of his eight three-noint attempts. Vladimir Radmanovic went 0-for-8, and Luke Ridnour missed all of his five shots.

"Everybody came to play, Allen said. "We just didn't have the rhythm."

Amare Stoudemire had 22 points for Phoenix - mostly in the paint - and Steve Nash added 12 points and 10 assists to heln Phoeniy avenge a 113-105 loss at home last month, when the Sonics hit 12 three-pointers. The victory was the Suns' fifth in six games and improved their road record to a league-best 24-7.

"This was a good game for us," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said. "It follows up winning at Dallas and against Detroit, so we have had three good wins in the last couple of weeks. We are playing at a high level."

Rashard Lewis had 26 points and 11 rebounds for Seattle, which lost forward Nick Collison to a broken nose in the second quarter He'll be re-evaluated Monday.

After handily defeating the Western Conference's No. 3 team, Phoenix (46-14) have a chance to take over the league's best record when it hosts San Antonio on Wednesday night. The Spurs (46-13) could be without Tim Duncan, who sprained his right ankle against the I Itah Jazz and isn't evpected to play Tuesday against New Jersey.

"The key is not to be complacent," Nash said. "We're a young team. We have to stay focused to keep this thing going.'

Spurs 101, Jazz 94: At San Antonio, Duncan missed most of the second half when he came down on the leg of teammate Rasho Nes-



Spurs forward Tim Duncan shoots over Utah's Mehmet Okur and Kris Humphries (right) before he left Sunday's game with a sprained ankle.

X-rays on Duncan's ankle were negative, and Manu Ginobili led the Snurs in his absence with 31 points.

Keith McCleod led the Jazz with 18 points.

Heat 102. Cavaliers 82: Shaquille O'Neal spent much of his 33rd birthday in foul trouble, but Eddie Jones scored 19 points, Dwvane Wade and Udonis Haslem added 18 apiece and the visiting

Heat won their fifth straight. O'Neal played just 19 minutes in the first three quarters and finished with 13 points, five rebounds and six assists.

LeBron James scored 23 points for the Cavaliers, who have lost

Timberwolves 99, Celtics 97: Latrell Sprewell made a runner with 0.9 seconds remaining to give Kevin McHale a victory in his first game on the sidelines at Boston.

Antoine Walker had 16 points on 7-for-9 shooting in his first loss since returning to the Celtics. Kevin Garnett had 21 points, 13

rebounds and nine assists for the Kings 100, Pistons 85: Mike

Bibby had 19 points and 11 assists to help the Kings win in their first home game without Chris Webber. Kenny Thomas added 19

points, and Peja Stojakovic and Darius Songaila scored 14 apiece. Rasheed Wallace had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who finished a six-game road trip with consecutive losses to Phoe-

nix, Seattle and Sacramento.

Lakers 103, Pacers 94: Kobe Bryant scored 37 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to help spoil Reggie Miller's final NBA game in Los Angeles.

Miller, who grew up in nearby Riverside and played at UCLA. finished with 11 points in 38 minutes on 5-for-16 shooting

Stephen Jackson had 29 points for the Pacers, who have lost their last nine road games against the Lakers

Rockets 90, Mavericks 69: At Houston, Tracy McGrady had 32 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Rockets past the injury-depleted Mavericks.

McGrady scored 27 of his points after getting six stitches on his chin following a collision in the first quarter. The Mavericks, who were play-

ing without the injured Dirk Nowitzki and Michael Finley for just the second time this season, set a season low for total points.

Knicks 115, Warriors 99: At New York, Stephon Marbury had 26 points and a season-high 16 assists and the Knicks used a 21-1 run in the fourth quarter to defeat

Tim Thomas scored 25 points as the Knicks shot a season-high 61.8 percent.

Jason Richardson scored 24 points, and Troy Murphy added 23 for the Warriors.

Raptors 95. Hornets 84: At New Orleans, Chris Bosh scored a career-high 33 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, helping the Raptors end a two-game skid. Lee Nailon led the Hornets

with 18 points.

Men's conference tournament scoreboard

America Fast

Friday, March 4 Md.-Baltimore Co. 78, New Hampshire 73 Md.-Baltimon C. 100, 18, New Hamps Stony Brook 66, Hartford 48 Saturday, March 5 Binghamton 76, Albany, N.Y. 70 Vermont 76, Md.-Baltimore Co. 18 Northeastern 90, Stony Brook 73 Maline 47, BS Sunday, March 6 Vermont 76, Binghamton 65 Northeastern 86, Maline 73 Saturday, March 12 Saturday, March 19 Northeastern at Vermont

Atlantic Coast

Atlantic Coast
Maryland vs. Clemson
North Carolina St. vs. Florida St.
Mlami vs. Virginia
Maryland Vs. Genson
North Carolina St. vs. Florida St.
Mlami vs. Virginia
Maryland/Clemson
Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech
Wake Forest vs. Nc. State/Florida St.
Duke vs. Miami/Virginia
Staturday, March 12
Semificals: Semifinals Sunday, March 13

Championsh **Atlantic Sun**

Thursday, March 3
Gardner-Webb 64, Troy 62
Central Florida 81, Mercer 68
Belmont 67, Georgia State 61
Jacksonville 68, Lipscomb 64
Friday, March 4
Gardner-Webb 77, Jacksonville 76
Central Florida 66, Belmont March 5
Catterias March 5 Saturday, March 5 Championship Central Florida 63, Gardner-Webb 54

Atlantic 10

Richmond vs. Rhode Island Massachusetts vs. La Salle Massachusetts vs. La Salle Dayton vs. St. Bönaventure Dayton vs. St. Bönaventure Thursday, March 10 Saint Joseph's vs. Richmond/Rhode Island Xavier vs. Massachusetts/L Geo. Washington vs. Fordham/Duquesne Temple vs. Dayton/St. Bonaventure Friday, March 11 Semifinals Saturday, March 12 Championship

Big East

West Virginia vs. Providence Georgetöwn vs. Seton Hail Notre Dame vs. Seton Hail Notre Dame vs. Georgetöm vs. Seton Hail Notre Dame vs. W. Virginia/Providen Villanovs. Georgetöm/Seton Hail Syracuse vs. Notre Dame/Rutgers Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
Championship

Saturday, March 5 Montana 58, Eastern Washington 48 Weber State 74, Sacramento State 71 Montana State /4, Sacramento S Tuesday, March 8 Montana State vs. Montana Portland State vs. Weber St. Wednesday, March Championship

Big South

Tuesday, March 1 Charleston Southern 65, Liberty 60 High Point 98, N.c.-Asheville 93, OT Winthrop 74, Coastal Carolina 52 Birmingham-Southern 69, Radford 40 Thursday, March 3 Thursday, March 3 Charleston Southern 58, High Point 55 Winthrop 78, Birmingham-Southern 64 Saturday, March 5 Championship Winthrop 68, Charleston Southern 46

Big Ten

Northwestern vs. Michigan lowa vs. Purdue Ohio State vs. Genn State Ohio State vs. Genn State Friday, March 11 Illinois vs. Northwestern/Michigan Minnesota vs. Indiana Michigan State vs. Iowa/Purdue Wisconsin vs. Ohio State/Penn State Semifinals Semifinals

Semifinals Sunday, March 13 Championship

Big 12

Thursday, March 10 Missouri vs. Nebraska Iowa State vs. Baylor Texas A&M vs. Kansas State Texas vs. Colorado Texas vs. Colorado, March 11
Oklahoma vs. Mosouri/Nebraska
Texas Tech vs. lowa State/Baylor
Kansas vs. Texas A&M/Kansas State
Oklahoma State vs. Texas/Colorado
Saturday, March 12
Samifinais

Sunday, March 13 Championship

Big West

Wednesday, March 9 UC Irvine vs. Idaho UC Irvine vs. Idaho Long Beach State vs. UC Santa Barbara Thursday, March 10 Cal Fullerton vs. Iower-seeded winner Cal Northridge vs. higher-seeded winner Friday, March 11 Friday, March 11
Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
Championships

Colonial Athletic

COIONIAI ATMETIC
Friday, March 4
Pelaware 76, TowSon 56
Delaware 76, TowSon 56
Old Domina March 5
Old Domina March 5
Va. Commonwealth 74, Delaware 61,
Va. Commonwealth 74, Delaware 61,
Va. Wilmington 60, George Mason 47
Old Domina 72, Holstra 83
Old Domina 72, Holstra 84 Va. Commonwealth 55, N.C.-Wilmingt Monday, March 7 Championship Old Dominion vs. Va. Commonwealth

Conference USA

Wednesday, March 9 Texas Christian vs. Marquette DePaul vs. Tulane Memphis vs. Saint Louis Memphis vs. Saint Louis Houston vs. South Florida Thursday, March 10 Louisyille vs. TcU/Marquette Ala.-Birmingham vs. DePaul/Tulane Charlotte vs. Memphis/Saint Louis Cincinnati vs. Houston/South Florida Friday, March 11 Semifinals Saturday, March 12 Championshin

Horizon League

Tuesday, March 1 Wright St. 61 Bettler Sparcen I Loyola of Chicago 78, Youngstown St. 75 Ill.-Chicago 88, Cjeveland St. 65 Priday, March 4 Loyola of Chicago 81, Ill.-Chicago 81 Detrois 61, Wasturday, March 5 Wis.-Milwaukee 94, Loyola of Chicago 76 University 100 Bettler 100

Metro Atlantic

metro Atlantic
iona 68, Siena 51
Gran 68, Siena 51
Gran 68, Loyola, Md. 67
Lona 97, S. Saturday, March 5
Gran 78, S. Saturday, March 5
Gran 79, S. Saturday, March 5
Gran 79, S. Saturday, March 6
Rider 76, Faith 64
Manhattan 60
Rider 76, Faith 64
Monday, March 7
Championship
Niagara vs. Rider

Mid-American

Monday, March 7 Marshall at Ohio Central Michigan at Kent State Eastern Michigan at Akron Northern Illinois at Buffalo Ball State at Bowling Green Thursday, March 10 TNUFSday, March av Toledo vs. Northern Illinois/Buffalo W. Michigan vs. E. Michigan/Akron Miami (Ohio) vs. Ball State/Bowling Greer Ohio/Marshall vs. Kent State/C. Michigan Friday, March 11 Saturday, March 12 Championship

Mid-Continent

Saturday, March 5 Oral Roberts 82, Southern Utah 59 Oakland, Mich. 67, Mo.-Kansas City 63 Sunday, March 6 IUPU-Indianapolis 70, W. Illinois 62 Chicago Staté 72, Valparaiso 67 linois 62 iso 67 Oral Roberts vs. IUPU-Indiana Oakland, Mich. vs. Chicago St. Tuesday, March 8

Mid-Eastern Athletic

Monday, March 7 Morgan St. vs. Md.-Eastern Sho Florida A&M vs. Howard Tuesday, March 8 Bethune-Cookman vs. North Carolina A&T Wednesday, March 9 Delaware St. vs. lowest-seeded winner Hampton vs. middle-seeded winner Thursday, March 10 South Carolina St. vs. Norfolk S Coppin St. vs. highest-seeded v Friday, March 11 Semifinals Saturday, March 12

Missouri Valley

Friday, March 4 Indiana St. 63, Bradley 61 Drake 82, Evansville 68 Saturday, March 5 Southern Illinois 64, Indiana St. 49 Southern Illinois 64, Indiana St Southwest Missouri 70, Northe Wichita St. 72, Drake 52 Creighton 69, Illinois St. 52 Swanday, March 6 SW Missouri 65, Southern Illino Creighton 70, Wichita St. 60 Monday, March 7 Championship SW Missouri vs. Creighton

Mountain West

Utah vs. Colorado St.
UNLV vs. Wyoming
New Mexico vs. Brigham Young
Air Force vs. San Diego St.
Utah/Colorado State vs. UNLV/New Mexico (SV US. Air Force). Saturday, March 12
Champions Saturday, March 12
Champions Saturday, March 12

Northeast

Thursday, March 3 Monmouth, N.J. 54, C. Connecticut 53 Fairleigh Dickinson 78, St. Francis, N.Y. 60 Wagner 69, Robert Morris 65

Long Island U. 76, St. Francis, Pa. 67 Sunday, March 6 Wagner 63, Monmouth, N.J. 60 Fairleigh Dickinson 70, Long Island U. 62 Wednesday, March 9 Championship Wagner vs. Fairleigh Dickinson

Ohio Valley

Tuesday, March 1 Tennessee Tech 72, Eastern Illinois 68 Austin Peay 71, Samford 60 Eastern Kentucky 74, Tennessee St. 68 istern Kehtucky 74, Tennessee St. 6 wutheast Missouri 61, Murray St. 58 Friday, March 4 istin Peay 67, Tennessee Tech 61 istern Kentucky 69, St. Missouri 52 Saturday, March 5 Championship istern Kentucky 52, Austin Peay 46

Pac-10

Thursday, March 10 na vs. California vs. Oregon State inoton vs. Arizona State ashington vs. Arizona Scasc anford vs. Washington State Friday, March 11 Semifinals Saturday, March 12

Patriot

Friday, March 4
Holy Cross, 76, Army 42
American 85, Navy 83, OT
Bucknell 70, Lafayette 34
Sunday, March 6
Holy Cross 57, Lehigh 53, OT
Bucknell 53, American 35
Friday, March 11
Championship
Bucknell 54, March 11
Championship

Southeastern

JOURNEASTERN
Thursday, March 19
South Carolina vs. Mississippi State vs. Georgia
Arkansas vs. Tennessee
Vanderbilt vs. Roburnach 11
Alabama vs. South Carolina/Mississip
Florida vs. Mississippi State/Georgia
Kentucky vs. Arkansay Tennessee
Li Vs. Van State Alexandra Vs. Arkansay Tennessee
Subraku Ausent 12 Semifinals Sunday, March 13 Championshin

Southern

Elon 64, Wednesday, March 2 Georgia Southern 69, Western Carolina 57 East Tennessee 87, Furman 84 Appalachian 51, 68, The Citadel 59 Thursday, March 3 Davidson 67, Elon 53 Davidson 67, Elon 53'
N.C.-Greensborr 73, Georgia Southern 71
Chattanooga 77, East Tennessee 70
Appalachian St, 63, Charleston 60
N.C.-Greens Friday, March 4
N.C.-Greens 57, Appalachian 85, 51
Saturday, March 5
Championship

Championship Chattanooga 66, N.C.-Greensboro 62 Southland

Tuesday, Amouston Texas-Arlington at Northwestern Texas State at Southeastern Lou McNeese St. at Sam Houston St. Lamar at Texas-San Antonio Thursday, March 10 Tuesday, March 8 gton at Northwestern (La.) St. Semifinals Sunday, March 13 Championship

Southwestern Athletic

Thursday, March 10 Grambling vs. Southern Alabama St. vs. Prairie View A&M Mississippi Valley vs. Jackson St. Alabama A&M vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff Friday, March 11 Semifinals
Sunday, March 13
Championship

Sun Belt

Friday, March 4 Fla. International 60, South Alabama 57 Arkansas St. 84. North Texas 76 Arkansas St. et al. Mohry port in Augustia 5 Arkansas St. et al. Mohry port in Augustia 5 Arkansas St. et al. March 5 Arkansas St. et al. March 5 Arkansas St. et al. Mohry port in Arkansas St. et al. Mohry port tional vs. La.-Lafavette Tuesday, March 8

West Coast

West Coast
Friday, March 4
San Francisco 56, Portiand 50
San Diego 86, Perpardine 93
San Diego 86, Pepperdine 80
Santa Clara 67, San Francisco 6
Gonzaga 90, San Diego 74ch 6
Gonzaga 90, San Diego 74ch 6
Gonzaga 90, San Diego 74ch 6
Gonzaga 93, San Diego 74ch 6
Gonzaga 93, San Diego 74ch 6
Gonzaga 93, San Bary 5, Calif, 69, Santa Clara 64
Gonzaga vs. St. Mary 5, Calif, 69

Western Athletic

Tuesday, March 8
Hawaii vs. San Jose State
Boise State vs. Tulsa
Thursday, March 10
Texas-El Paso vs. Hawaii/San Jo
Rice vs. Southern Methodist
Fresno State vs. Louisiana Tech
Nevada vs. Boise State/ Tulsa
Sermifinais
Friday, March 11 Friday, March 11
Sermifinals
Saturday, March 12
Championship

Paul's two shots are key as Wake beats N.C. State

BY AARON BEARD The Associated Press

RALEIGH N.C -Chris Paul's first-half shot nearly overshadowed his last-second basket to beat North Carolina State.

The sophomore hit a buzzer-beating runner to lift fourth-ranked Wake Forest past the North Carolina State 55-53 on Sunday night, keeping the Demon Deacons in contention for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament But Paul also faced plenty of

questions afterward about his low blow to Wolfpack star Julius Hodge.

Either way, the feisty point guard was the center of attention Paul finished with nine points and six assists for the Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), who have won 10 of 11 and tied school records for victories overall and in the leagu

With the Wolfpack (17-12, 7-9) leading 53-50. Justin Grav nailed a tying three-pointer right in front of the Wake Forest bench with 12.8 seconds left.

Engin Atsur tried to answer but his hurried three-pointer fell well short of the rim and out of bounds, giving the Demon Deacons possession with 4.2 seconds 1eft

Paul did the rest. He inhounds ed the ball to Vytas Danelius, who sent it right back. Paul then weaved through the retreating Wolfpack defenders, bounced off a bump from Atsur and launched a fadeaway shot from about 12

The ball swished through the net at the horn, sending the Demon Deacons onto the court for a celebration - and giving Paul the last word on a testy night in Raleigh.

In a play that set the tone the rest of the night, Paul gave Hodge a harsh parting gift on senior night, hitting him with a low blow during a battle underneath the basket. Hodge, the reigning ACC player of the year, fell to the court with 12:48 left in the first half.

With Hodge down, his older brother, Steve, walked onto the court to see if Julius was OK and to vell toward Paul on the Wake Forest bench, Steve Hodge walked off the court, and arena se curity soon instructed him to leave the court area. Once Hodge got up, he angrily

yelled and gestured toward the Demon Deacons' sideline on his way back to the bench.

Paul said the two were just tangled up. "I don't believe I popped him,

Paul said. "It was just the heat of the game. I've got too much re-spect for him to try to pop him on senior night."

Told that replays showed him hitting Hodge, Paul responded, "I haven't seen the replay. The question is whether Paul will face any kind of sanction



N.C. State's Julius Hodge (24) and Wake Forest's Chris Paul contest a rebound late in Sunday night's game. Wake won 55-53.

from the league for the blow. Hodge mentioned his suspension as a freshman for an elbow he threw against Maryland's Steve Blake, which was caught on film and led to a one-game suspen-

"He punched me in the groin and the ref saw it," Hodge said. "I got suspended for that (as a freshman). ... I never play dirty like

Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser said he didn't see the incident. N.C. State coach Herb Sendek said he had reviewed replays of the incident, but declined com-

"I think the replay is going to have to speak for me tonight," he said

A few minutes after returning to the game, Hodge was whistled for a technical foul when he gave Paul a shove after he was fouled in the post.

From there, Paul was booed loudly every time he touched the ball, and N.C. State fans began chanting "Dirty Deacons!"

Wake Forest shot just 29 per-cent in the second half, going without a field goal for 10 minutes, but still pulled it out on big shots by Paul and Gray.

And on the same day that No. 1 Illinois, No. 3 Kentucky, No. 6 Duke and No. 7 Kansas lost, the Demon Deacons saw an opportu-

'We thought that might've pened the door a little bit more (for a No. 1 seed) and gave us a chance right here to make a move

up," said Gray, who had 15 Ilian Evtimov scored 19 points

to lead N.C. State, which is trying for its fourth straight NCAA bid.

Closing the deal

Down nine in the closing minutes, North Carolina scores the last 11 points to top Duke for ACC title

BY KEITH PARSONS The Associated Pres.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - North Carolina's players and coaches took turns at the top of a ladder, celebrating an Atlantic Coast Conference title by cutting down the

While certainly not unprecedented, the scene was a bit surreal for the end of the regular sea-

"I'm big on letting kids celebrate," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "We will be criticized for it. Somebody's not going to like it and that's just part of it. I think it's OK in college athletics to let kids celebrate.

Williams did the same for the majority of his nine conference titles at Kansas, and needed only two seasons to bring the tradition to North Carolina

Freshman Marvin Williams converted a three-point play with 17 seconds left to cap an 11-0 game-closing run and give the second-ranked Tar Heels a 75-73 victory over No. 6 Duke on Sunday

North Carolina (26-3, 14-2), playing without the ill Rashad Mc-Cants for the fourth straight game, won its first ACC regular-season championship since 1993, which was also the last time the Tar Heels won a national championship.

"It's been a long journey," said senior Jackie Manuel, one of three players left from a team that lost 20 of 28 games three years ago. "To be honest, I didn't really know if we could do it. You really appreciate the highs when vou've been at the bottom and seen the worst.

Sean May had 26 points and 24 rebounds, and none was more important than that last rebound. After J.J. Redick missed a long

three-point attempt that would have won it for the Blue Devils, teammate Daniel Ewing had a final chance from just inside the His shot was short, and May

44 I'm bia on lettina kids celebrate

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> Roy Williams North Carolina coach

leaped high for the carom. He cradled the ball in his hand while the clock ran out, then hurled it into the stands. Hundreds of the 22,125 fans - the largest crowd ever at the Dean E. Smith Center - rushed the court to celebrate only the third Tar Heels victory over their Tobacco Road rival in the past 16 meetings.
"I've never experienced any-

thing like that and it's something I'll never forget for the rest of my life," May said. "For me, it feels good, because I've never beaten them. Finally, to get an opportunity, it feels good.

Shelden Williams had 25 points and six blocks for Duke (22-5, 11-5), which played without guard Sean Dockery for the third straight game. Redick scored all 17 of his points in the first half. "We have to close the chapter

to this book, the regular season, and our guys were in every ballgame," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I'm proud of them." The Blue Devils broke from a

tie at 64 with a 9-0 run capped by a three-pointer by Lee Melchion ni with 3:07 left. That was his fifth three-pointer of the second half

"I love the competitiveness of Williams said. "I told them that if they were to make a total commitment to every possession on the defensive end and every possession on the offensive end, we would still have a chance still at the end.'

Jawad Williams stopped the Tar Heels' drought with a tip-in and Marvin Williams added two free throws to make it 73-68. On the other end, DeMarcus Nelson missed the front end of a 1-and-1. and May powered inside for a three-point play to cut the margin

"We played hard and pushed hard for the majority of the second half." Shelden Williams said. "All of a sudden, we got a little cushion and laid off some, and had a few turnovers. Carolina was able to convert on those and got the momentum."

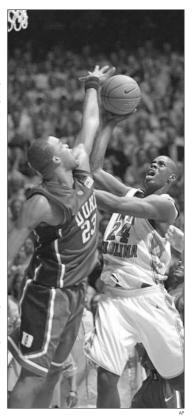
Later. North Carolina point guard Raymond Felton had a chance to tie it, but his runner from the lane rattled around the rim before bouncing out. Then Ewing, the lone senior on the court for the Blue Devils, lost the hall near midcourt and Felton grabbed it and quickly called a timeout with 27 seconds left.

"That was probably the play of the game," May said. Felton drove to the basket and

was fouled by Nelson. He swished the first free throw to make it

His second bounced high off the rim, and after a brief scramble for the ball, Marvin Williams grabbed it and quickly shot over Duke walk-on Patrick Johnson. The shot banked in as he was fouled, and his free throw capped the furious rally. You've got to have the mentali-

ty to bear down," Melchionni said. "We shot one free throw in the last three minutes with a nine-point lead, and that's unacceptable. You can't do that and win a game



North Carolina's Marvin Williams, right, gets off the game-winning shot over Duke's Shelden Williams on Sunday. North Carolina won 75-73.

Florida's long wait is over after beating Kentucky

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - After coming up empty eight times, Florida's David Lee was finally able to enjoy a victory over Kentucky.

The senior forward jumped on a courtside table while the rest of his team celebrated the Gators 53-52 upset on Sunday, the outcome sealed by Anthony Roberson's two free throws with 15 seconds remaining.

"That was four years in the making right there," Lee said.

Florida ended an eight-game losing streak against the Southeastern Conference bully and probably ended the third-ranked Wildcats' hopes of getting a top seed in the NCAA tournament.



"It was the greatest win of my ' the Gators' Matt Walsh said. Roberson, the league's leading scorer, stripped the ball from Patrick Sparks with about 12 seconds to play and Florida trailing

Snarks compounded his miscue by fouling Roberson, an 88 percent free-throw shooter who calmly converted both shots. He fin-

ished with 21 points. Kentucky (23-4, 14-2) still had a chance to win, but managed only Kelenna Azubuike's off-balance three-pointer that bounced off the left side of the rim and into Walsh's hands

Florida (20-7, 12-4) last beat the Wildcats in March 2001. The Gators have come close, losing the last three at home by a combined seven points, but had been unable to get over the hurdle

The "Big Three" changed that Lee, the team's lone senior who was honored before his final

home game, had lost all eight previous meetings against Kentucky Walsh and Roberson were 0-6

"It's taken three years for me to win this on my home floor," Roberson said.

Walsh, Roberson and Lee comined for 43 of Florida's 53 points. Walsh and Lee each had 11. Lee added 10 rebounds, two assists two steals and a blocked shot.

ry" said Lee who also removed his shirt in the postgame revelry. "I would have liked for it to not be so close. It would have been easier if we had won by 50 and gone out with 4 minutes to play and gotten everybody in. But any time vou get a win against a Top Five team like Kentucky, as great as their tradition is, it just says a lot about our team."

Missouri 72. No. 7 Kansas 68: Thomas Gardner matched his career best with 23 points and Linas

Kleiza had 15 points and 14 rebounds for the Tigers (15-15, 7-9). who had lost four straight to Kan-

Wavne Simien had 17 points and eight rebounds for the visitwere humned to the second seed in this week's Big 12 tournament behind co-champion Oklahoma Kansas' Keith Langford had five points in 3 minutes before re-injuring an ankle he hurt in practice last week. Langford is the Jayhawks' second-leading scorer at 15.1 points.

No. 12 Gonzaga 90, San Diego 74: Adam Morrison had 25 points and a career-high eight assists to lead the Bulldogs (24-4) to the West Coast Conference championship game as they go for their sixth tournament title in seven years.

Floyd North III had 16 points, and Nick Lewis added 15 points and eight rehounds for the Toreros (16-13).

Truex earns Busch win south of the border

MEXICO CITY - NASCAR's first surprise-filled journey south of the border finished a lot like those back home, with regulars Martin Truey Jr Kevin Harvick and Carl Edwards at the front of the pack

Truex used a planned early pit stop and took advantage of a lucky yellow flag that shut the door on two pursuers - to hang onto the lead over the final 28 laps of the first points-paying NASCAR race outside the United States in a half century



Nextel Cup driver Kevin Harvick finished iust over 6 seconds back, second third-consecutive

Busch Series race after slipping past Carl Edwards on the 78th lap of the 80-lan Telcel-Motorola 200 Truex made two early pit stops, his last

at the 46th lap "We wanted to have a full tank of gas with 40 laps to go," Truex said.

The pit stop came seconds before a caution flag came out.

Adrian Fernandez and Boris Said, running in the top five, were caught in the approach to pit road and were penalized for pitting too quickly after the caution period started. They started at the back of pack, dashing their chances to win.

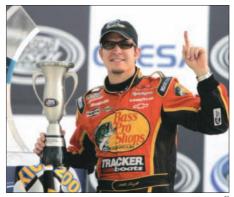
"As soon as we reached pit road and they told me the caution was out, I said, 'Yeah!
That's perfect!' We caught a little bit of
luck there," Truex said.

Said battled back to fifth and Fernandez to 10th by the end of the race.

Edwards had a remarkable comeback as well. He smashed his main car in practice and blew a replacement engine. managed to qualify ninth and finish third in his backup car.

Reed Sorenson, who entered the race second to Harvick in the season points standing, was running strong before spinning onto the grass on lap 59. Virtually all of the pack passed before he could get back on the track

The race was a boost for NASCAR's effort to build a new fan base in Mexico, where open-wheel racing has been dominant. Promoters said a healthy 94,229 people turned out on race day following a 38,319 crowd for Saturday's qualifying



Martin Truex Jr. celebrates after winning the Nascar series race at the Hermanos Rodrigu ez racetrack in Mexico City on Saturday. It was NASCAR's first race in Mexico.

"This could become the marquee event for the series." said Robbie Weiss. NASCAR's chief of international business. But he said no contract had yet been signed for next year.

Ticket prices started at 180 pesos -about \$17 — nearly double the country - nearly double the country's median daily wage.

But fans hoping for a hometown stunner had to be satisfied the pole position and early race leadership of the little-known Jorge Goeters, who was making his first Busch Series race.

Goeters led for the first 24 laps, but his first NASCAR pit stop was a disaster coming in under the green flag and stopping initially at a neighboring pit.

He battled back up to 10th but pulled off the track on the 66th lap with his car spew-

Fernandez, making his first NASCAR start, had the fastest practice time but a crash in qualifying knocked him to the back of Sunday's grid. He fought back to the lead, but was then penalized to the back again.

Edwards clipped another Mexican star. Michel Jourdain Jr., spinning him into the wall and knocking him out of the race for 10 laps while his crew worked on repairs.

"I was a little overaggressive," Edwards said in a public apology to Jourdain. "I hope I can make it up to him.

Carlos Contreras, the first Mexican to race in a Busch race, was running a steady sixth when his car slowed on the 72nd lap and he pitted.

Weldon wins IRL opener at Homestead

HOMESTEAD, Fla. - Dan Wheldon celebrated by doing doughnuts in his car and got victory hugs from his crew, but the Englishman didn't want to make too much of his overpowering victory Sunday in the season-opening IRL IndyCar race at Home-stead-Miami Speedway.

"It's one race into the championship.

One race," the smiling Wheldon said after dominating the Toyota Indy 300, leading 158 of the 200 laps. "If it's meant to be it's meant to be. I just enjoy winning races." Wheldon, part of the powerful four-car

Andretti Green Racing team, pulled away from the pack midway through the race and appeared headed to a runaway victory when the race was interrupted by a frightening eight-car crash on lap 159

The big wreck - the last of seventh cautions - began moments after a restart when Kosuke Matsuura, trying to pass pole winner Tomas Scheckter on the outside, slid sideways and hit Scheckter.

Before all the crashing and banging

ended, the accident also took out Scott Sharp, Bryan Herta, Scott Dixon, Roger Yasukawa, Ed Carpenter and 22-year-old rookie Danica Patrick, making her first IRL start.

Patrick, the only woman in the field, walked into the infield care center but was sent by ambulance to a nearby hospital for observation after being diagnosed with a concussion.

After a long cleanup the green flag waved with 24 laps remaining and Wheldon steadily pulled away from a group of cars that included two-time IRL champion and defending race winner Sam Hornish Jr., reigning series champion Tony Kanaan, Helio Castroneves and Vitor Meira.

The race ended with Wheldon's Honda-powered Dallara 3.7 seconds — virtually an entire straightaway on the 1 1/2-mile oval — ahead of a three-wide-battle for second barely won by Hornish. Kanaan, who completed every lap of

every race and finished out of the top five only once on the way to beating teammate Wheldon for the 2004 title, was credited with third, just ahead of Meira.

Castroneves finished fifth, followed by Darren Manning and IRL newcomer Patrick Carpentier, the last driver on the lead lap

Ex-Washington coach Neuheisel settles suit for \$4.7M

KENT, Wash. - Fired football coach Rick Neuheisel will receive \$4.7 million in a settlement Monday of his lawsuit against the NCAA and the University of Washington.



The deal was nounced Judge Michael Spearman just before closing

arguments were to begin in the 5-week trial. Neuheisel will receive a cash payment of \$2.5 million from NCAA, and the university will forgive a \$1.5 million loan from the school that Neuheisel earlier had been asked to pay back. The university also will pay him \$500.000 in cash and \$200,000 in interest.

After his announcement, the judge called attorneys in the case into his chambers. Neuheisel and other principals in the case were not immediately available for comment

Neuheisel had accused the uni-

versity of wrongfully terminating his contract and the NCAA of encouraging Washington administrators to fire him.

The university had argued that he had signed a contract that allowed for his firing for acts of dishonesty. School officials have said Neuheisel was fired for gambling on an NCAA basketball nool and failing to be forthright about it with NCAA investigators.

Last week, Spearman left open the possibility of declaring a mis-trial because the NCAA had failed to provide Neuheisel's legal team with an updated version of its bylaws during discovery. In a statement Monday, the university said it agreed to settle because a mistrial could be declared.

The updated bylaws seem to bolster Neuheisel's argument that NCAA investigators acted improperly when they failed to tell him in advance that they planned to question him regarding his gambling.

Warner agrees with Cardinals PHOENIX - Kurt Warner agreed Sunday to a one-year, \$4

million contract with the Arizona Cardinals, the two-time MVP's third team in three seasons. The 33-year-old quarterback,

who lost his starting job with the Giants to rookie Eli Manning last season, is to sign the contract and appear at a news conference in Arizona on Tuesday. Warner was a three-time Pro

Bowl selection with the St. Louis Rams. He led the Rams to the Super Bowl in 1999 and 2001, beating Tennessee and winning MVP in the 2000 game.

But after losing the starting job to Marc Bulger in St. Louis he signed a one-year deal with the Giants before last season.

Warner visited the Cardinals on Thursday, then made a trip to Chicago for a meeting with Bears officials.

Warner has made it clear that he expects to be a starter, and Arizona coach Dennis Green made it clear that the opportunity for him is there. The Cardinals starter most of last season, Josh Mc-Cown, will be back next season.

RB Johnson signs with Bengals CINCINNATI - Running back

Rudi Johnson signed a one-year, \$6.3 million contract Monday to stay with the Cincinnati Bengals. Johnson, who set a Bengals sin-

gle-season rushing record last season with 1,454 yards, is still free to negotiate a long-term contract with the team, and he says he wants to do that

Johnson became a free agent March 2, but the Bengals designated him their franchise player, meaning they could retain him by matching any offer sheet he signed with another team.

The deal allows the Bengals to keep Johnson while they see whether Chris Perry, their top draft choice in 2004, will develop into their running back of the future. Perry was sidelined much of his rookie season by injuries

Sullivan finalists announced

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. -Olympic gold medalists Michael Phelps, Carly Patterson and Paul Hamm, and Heisman Trophy win10 finalists announced Monday for the Sullivan Award, given to the nation's top amateur athlete.

Phelps, last year's Sullivan winner, captured six golds and two bronzes at the Athens Olympics, matching the record for most medals won at a single Games.

Patterson, of Allen, Texas, was the first U.S. woman to win the Olympic all-around title since Mary Lou Retton. She also won silver medals in the team competition and on the balance beam, and was the USOC's SportsWoman of the Year. Hamm was the first U.S. man

to win the Olympic all-around. Leinart led Southern California to an undefeated season and its

second straight national title Other finalists are: Jeremy

Wariner (track) Elisha Au (karate); Natalie Coughlin (swim-ming); Steven Lopez (taekwondo); Cael Sanderson (wrestling); and Andre Ward (boxing). Online voting on the USA Today Web site will help determine the winner, who will be announced April 13 in New York

Tiger outduels Lefty, reclaims No. 1

By DOUG FERGUSON The Associated Press

- Tiger Woods returned to No. 1 in the world Sun-

Phil Mickelson made him earn

In a titanic battle on the Blue Monster before a sellout crowd, Woods made a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th, then held his breath as the resilient Mickelson nearly chinned in for hirdie on the final hole. After four hours of dramatic shifts in momentum and thunderous cheers. Woods ended a spectacular duel with a 6-foot par That gave him a 6-under 66 for

a one-shot victory in the Ford Championship at Doral, putting Woods back at No. 1 in the world rankings for the first time since September.

"What a day," Woods said in utter relief. "If you're not nervous on a day like this, you're not

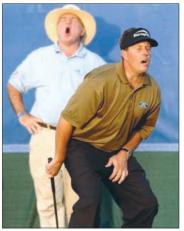
Mickelson was alive and kicking

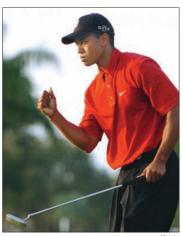
After Woods carried a 3-wood some 290 yards to set up an eagle on the par-5 12th and take the lead for the first time, Lefty answered with back-to-back birdies. Needing a birdie to force a playoff, and possibly win on the 18th, his 30-foot chip was good until the final inch, when it tailed to the right and caught the lip.

"I'm a little ticked at myself for not getting it done," Mickelson said after his 69. "I knew I was playing well enough to win. I believe I should have won, certainly could have won. And I just hope that I have another shot soon. I hope that the next time we play, we both play well again and get in the last group. Because this was fun competing against him."

Woods, who earned \$990,000 for his second victory of the year, finished at 24-under 264 to break by one shot the tournament record at Doral, previously held by Jim Furyk (2000) and Greg Norman (1993) This is the sixth PGA Tour event in which Woods has at least a share of the 72-hole

Vijay Singh, who had been No 1 the last 26 weeks after heating Woods in a Labor Day duel outside Boston, closed with a 66 to finish third, five shots behind, along with Zach Johnson (67)





Phil Mickelson flinches in agony after he just missed a chip shot on No. 18 that would have tied Tiger Woods for the lead in the Ford Champion ship at Doral. Woods, right, pumps his fist on the 17th green after making a 30-foot birdie putt to take the lead for good during the final round.

Mickelson's streak of 10 consecutive rounds atop the leaderboard ended, but not without a gutsy

Most players would have buckled when Woods surged into the lead with a 25-foot eagle putt, followed by an uppercut full of emo-

Mickelson came right back at him. He hirdied the next two holes to regain a share of the lead and was poised to beat Woods until missing two short putts - a 10-footer for birdie on No. 15 and a 5-footer for par on No. 16 after Woods had failed to get up and down from the bunker.

It was the first time in a combined 67 holes either of them had made a bogey. They performed at such a high level that each made 27 birdies this week, a career

"We both played really good golf," Woods said

And with some 35,000 fans already exhausted of emotion, Mickelson kept them on their toes with a 30-foot chip that briefly dipped into the cup on the 18th before spinning out

"From where I was looking, that thing was center cut," Woods

It was only the third time Woods and Mickelson have nlaved against each other in the final round, and Woods has won them all

The other two times were the 2001 Masters, in which Woods had a one-shot lead; and the 2003 Buick Invitational, in which Woods was two ahead of Mickel-

It might not be the last time. Woods and Mickelson have two victories each this year, and are clearly playing better than anyone as big tournaments loom, including the start of the majors

"With all the feelings I have about losing today, this was proba-bly the best thing that could have happened to me heading into the majors," Mickelson said. "I just knew I was going to win today and when I didn't, it was a real slap in the face. Because I'm going to work my tail off to sal-

vage a couple more shots. "When I come back to The Players Championship and the Masters, I'm going to be ready. Both players had their chances

Woods missed back-to-back birdie putts from 8 feet early in the round, but a pivotal hole came at the par-3 fourth.

Mickelson stuffed his tee shot into 5 feet, while Woods' tee shot bounded off the side of the hill and was saved by thick rough from going into the water. He chipped some 10 feet by, and it looked as though Mickelson would double his lead. Instead. Woods made a tricky par putt and Mickelson missed his birdie try. One hole later, Woods nicked

the flag with his approach and made a 4-foot birdie. They matched shots the rest of the way, both of them twice missing birdie putts inside 12 feet The gallery soaked up every

Every patch of grass was cov-ered by fans from tee to green. They stood as many as six-deep around the shots, lined every path to the next tee box cheering as both walked by, the kind of atmosphere rarely seen except in major championships. "It was electric," V

Woods said. "It was definitely bipartisan out there. You could hear Phil's fans. you could hear Tiger's fans. They were both yelling at the top of their lungs. When we got to the tee box, my ears were ringing.

Mickelson and Woods kept them in suspense to the very end

Sorenstam picks up where she left off — on top of LPGA

By JASON LANGE The Associated Press

HUIXOUILUCAN, Mexico - Annika Sorenstam made another big statement to her LPGA Tour rivals in her first tournament of the year.

"I wanted everybody to know that I'm ready to play and ready to go," Sorenstam said Sunday after rallying to win the inaugural MasterCard Classic.

Also playing for the first time since filing for divorce from David Esch, the Swedish star shot a 4-under 68 in windy conditions for a three-stroke victory

"I've been in this position before, and what I've learned over the years is that

you've just got to play your own game er Cristie Kerr after the second round. Sorenstam finished at 7-under 209 and

earned \$180,000 for her 57th LPGA Tour title. Last year, she won eight tour events — including the season-ending ADT Cham-pionship in her last start in November and two international titles.

On Sunday, Sorenstam had eight birdies five in a row on Nos. 2-6 — to offset four geys on the high-altitude Bosque Real Country Club course.

Karrie Webb shot a 70 to finish second in the first LPGA Tour event in Mexico since

"I struggled a little bit with feeling com-fortable out there today." Webb said.

Kerr stumbled with a 75 to match South Korea's Hee-Won Han (71) at 3 under, and Mexican star Lorena Ochoa (68) rallied to finish fifth at 2 under. Rookie Paula Creamer (68) and Michelle Redman (72) were 1

The wind kicked up to 20 mph in the afternoon, complicating long approaches on the course overlooking the 7,400-foot-high Mexican capital.

"The wind was gusting tremendously," Sorenstam said

After her run of five straight birdies, So renstam bogeyed three consecutive holes On No. 9, she hit over the green and into a water hazard

"I was trying to play aggressive," she "I hit a 5-iron and it just seems like the wind took it and it went way too far."

But she had little trouble turning things around, adding three birdies on the back nine en route to her 18th career comeback

Hundreds of fans followed Ochoa throughout the tournament, and she said the extra attention made things tough some of the time.

But the 23-year-old star said she was happy that her strong performance Sunday was good enough for a fifth-place finish.

e had seven birdies, a bogey and a double bogey on 16, where she said she "mis-judged the wind."

SPORTS

Tiger returns to top of golf by outdueling Mickelson at Doral. Page 35



The tides of March

Two top four teams lose finale by 1 point, others escape in wild finishes

BY JIM O'CONNELL The Associated Press

The end of Illinois' run at a perfect season turned out to be just one part of a wild Sunday for the top four teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll

Just hours after Ohio State handed the top-ranked Illini their first loss of the season. No. 3 Kentucky lost by the same one-point margin to Florida.

It took a game-closing 11-0 run for No. 2 North Carolina to beat No. 6 Duke by two points, and then No. 4 Wake Forest needed a buzzer-beater from Chris Paul for a 55-53 victory over North Carolina State

The top four went 2-2 just days before the conference tourna-

ments get under way. Illinois (29-1, 15-1 Big Ten) was trying to become the second team in two seasons to get to "Champi-

onship Week" without a loss. Ohio State reserve Matt Sylvester hit a three-pointer with 5.1 seconds left to give the Buckeyes the 65-64 lead and the Illini's Roger Powell Jr. wasn't close with a

three-point attempt at the buzzer. "Everyone says a loss will help. We'll find out," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said. "We'll learn from it and move on. This next stretch is the most important of the year and that's what people

are going to remember." Saint Joseph's was 27-0 last season when the top-ranked Hawks lost to Xavier by 20 points in the quarterfinals of the Atlantic 10 tournament. The loss didn't derail their season by any means as they reached the round of eight in the NCAA tournament, losing to Oklahoma State in a thriller one game short of the Final Four

Stanford also made a run at a perfect season last season, winning its first 26 before losing to Washington in the last game before the Pac-10 tournament. The Cardinal won the conference tournament, then were upset by Ala-

u IIIIISIIUS	•
Sunday's scoreboard	
Ohio State	65
lo. 1 Illinois	64
No. 2 North Carolina	75
lo. 6 Duke	73
Florida	53
lo. 3. Kentucky	52
No. 4. Wake Forest	55
North Carolina State	53
Missouri	72

bama in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Xavier's coach in that game against Saint Joe's was Matta. He moved on to Ohio State this season and on Sunday he ended another run at perfection.

"I'd like to be the other team just one time," Matta said, laughing. "I'm living for the day I'm the No. 1 team and someone else is trying to do it to us."

The last team to reach the NCAA tournament without a loss was UNLV in 1991. The Runnin Rebels lost to Duke in the Final

The last team to go undefeated in a season was Indiana in 1976. Illinois is still the top seed in

this week's Big Ten tournament and it's hard to imagine the Illini losing the No. 1 ranking or a No. 1 seed in the NCAA's field of 65. "I'd rather lose now than three

weeks from now." Weber said. North Carolina freshman Mary-

Williams converted a three-point play with 17 seconds left to cap an 11-0 run and give the second-ranked Tar Heels a 75-73 victory over No. 6 Duke.

Sean May had 26 points and 24 rebounds to record his eighth straight double double for North Carolina (26-3, 14-2), which won its first Atlantic Coast Conference regular- season championship since 1993, the same year of its most recent national title

Florida ended an eight-game losing streak to Kentucky as An-







Clockwise from top: North Carolina's Sean May (right) shoots over Duke's Shelden Wiiliams during the Tar Heels' victory. North Carolina scored the last 11 points and won the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season title; Florida's Matt Walsh (right) hugs teammate Taurean Green after the Gators beat No. 3 Kentucky for the first time since March 2001; and Ohio State's J.J. Sullinger celebrates the Buckeyes' victory over Illinois Sunday in Columbus, Ohio. It was the top-ranked Illini's first loss of the season.

thony Roberson scored 21 points, including two free throws with 15 seconds remaining.

The Wildcats (23-4, 14-2 South-Conference) had eastern chance to win it, but Kelenna Azubuike's three-pointer just before the buzzer bounced off the left

side of the rim.

Paul went the length of the court in 4 seconds and hit the winner from about 12 feet for the Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3), who finished second to North Carolina

in the ACC. There is no record of the top three teams all losing on the same day, although they have all lost in the same week several times.

The last time it happened was in November 2003 when the top four - Connecticut, Duke, Michigan State and Arizona - all went

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